RUDY ESPERAS

FUGITIVE COP YIELDS

Guillermo Wapile, wanted for the killing of a Pagadian radioman, is presented to PNP chief Edgardo Aglipay. (Story below, Col. 1.)

■ Sports / A21
Bitter rivals Ateneo, La Salle dispute No. 2 seeding

■ Across / A15
John O sues Cebu rival for plunder

■ Metro / A18
DILG's Reyes faces new murder raps

Tanong ng Bayan **/ A16**
Talamak na nakawan ng cell phone: Ano'ng solusyon?
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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, September 14, 2004 ★★ 44 pages / 4 sections / vol. 19 / no. 279 P18

website: www.inq7.net

House wants PR expert to handle image problem

By Carlito Pablo

CALLING all public relations practitioners. Any takers for the House of Representatives?

Its image battered by controversy over the

HOUSE/ A4

MAY PAG-ASA PA KAYA YAN?

Nat'l treasurer resigns

House pork barrel stays after all

By Cynthia D. Balana and Christine O. Avendaño

THE PORK barrel of members of the House of Representatives will not be scrapped after all.

As part of an agreement reached at an all-party caucus last week, House members will still be allowed to identify projects, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero (NPC, Sorsogon) said yesterday.

"Yes, it is still pork because the congressmen will identify the projects," Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. (PDP Laban, Makati) said.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. announced on Saturday that he and senior party leaders in the House had agreed to abolish the pork barrel system starting next year and to adopt line item budgeting to ensure transparency in the executive and congressional allocations.

Line item budgeting, which specifies the actual projects and the amount of their funding, would require the executive department to enumerate the number of school buildings to be put up, and the length of roads to be constructed.

A Senate official on Sunday expressed skepticism over De Venecia's announcement that the House was giving up its pork, saying that the House was merely changing the pork barrel system from "lump-sum appropriation"

HOUSE/ A8

Newsman's suspected killer yields

By Alcuin Papa, Jeffrey M. Tupas and Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE LONG manhunt is over, the suspect is in custody, but fear still stalks the people Edgar Damalerio left behind.

More than two years after the hard-hitting, award-winning radio commentator was gunned down in Pagadian City, former policeman and suspect Guillermo Wapile surrendered to the police yesterday.

But the mastermind of the murder is still at large.

"This is just the start of a much bigger problem. There will be more struggle," Damalerio's wife Gemma told the INQUIRER.

She said one big problem confronting her family was that the man who had ordered her husband's killing had yet to be captured.

"[The] mastermind is still out there," Edgar Amoro, one of the witnesses in the case, said in a phone interview. "We are still not confident and feeling safe because our lives are still in total danger.

"Only the capture of the mastermind could assure us of our safety," Amoro added.

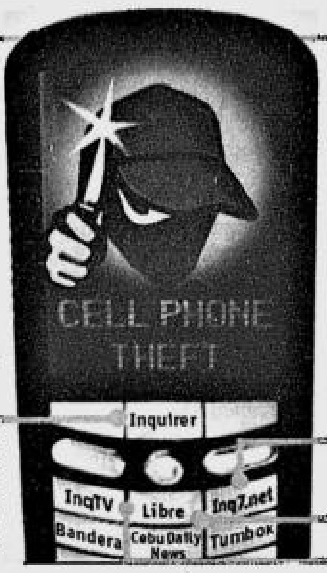
Wapile surrendered to officials of the Western Mindanao police command after a two-week nego-

NEWSMAN'S/ A8

Editors Note. The INQUIRER joins other INQUIRER media affiliates in a new venture in Philippine journalism: theme-driven special reports running simultaneously in different media outlets: on the Inq7.net website, in the Inquirer Libre free paper, on the InqTV newsmagazine program, in the Bandera and Tumbok papers and in the Cebu Daily News.

Our first theme is of pressing concern to the country's 22.5 million cellular phone subscribers: rampant cell phone theft. The numbers vary, but even the limited police statistics show that cell phone theft is already the country's most common street crime. And anecdotal evidence suggests that the problem is far worse than the numbers say.

For over a month, a total of 35 reporters, correspondents, producers and researchers took part in the coverage. The result, available today and in the next two days, is 22 related stories in seven media outlets.



INSIDE INQUIRER
Across the Nation: This man lost 6 phones /A16
Metro: Greenhills stalls shape up/A18
Business: DOTC warns on cloning of SIM cards/B1

IN OTHER INQUIRER MEDIA
Inq7.net: Stolen phones resold to public (www.inq7.net/cellphonetheft)
Libre: A "buyers guide" to second-hand shops
InqTV, on Thursday: How to stop this crime wave

TO DIE FOR

Cell phone top loot of choice

By Volt Contreras

(First of three parts)

AN UPRISING fueled by "text" has deposed a President, this labor-exporting country keeps in touch with its workers overseas, and telco services continue to lift the economy—all thanks to the Filipino's passion for the cell phone.

But somewhere and almost at any time in this "texting capital" of the world, a woman is groped inside an FX taxi, an office worker feels a knife in his side after making a wrong turn, or a student lies bleeding in a dark alley—all of them attacked for their handy, easily resold gadgets.

Cell phone theft and its fiercer sibling, robbery (when force or threat is involved), have emerged as a new subbranch of criminal activity, revealing a dark side to the mobile technology boom that began in the late 1990s.

The cell phone is now an indispensable device for many Filipinos, so that even the cheapest models gleam like newly minted currency for petty thieves, holdup gangs and fencing syndicates.

Police officers interviewed by the INQUIRER agree that cell phones are replacing jewelry and cash as the top loot of choice. It's not unusual to hear of holdup victims wondering why their assailants only went after their phones when their necklaces, rings, wristwatches and wallets were there for the taking.

Simple, really. According to Supt. Jovito Morin Diray, chief of the police investigation division in Davao City, it is easier to sell a stolen cell phone than a piece of jewelry.

The horror stories are as varied as the latest models. And it seems that the more high-tech

CELL PHONE/ A17

END of the line in handcuffs for Marlon de Guzman and Marcelino Herrera, who allegedly killed a Manila student after taking his cell phone.
JESS YUSON

IN THE KNOW

Who, IMEI?

The International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) is a 15-digit code unique to every cellular phone. Because it is like a motor vehicle's chassis number, it may help stop cell phone theft. If a phone is reported as lost to the National Telecommunications Commission, the NTC blocks the phone by marking the IMEI as invalid. To know your IMEI, press *#06#.

Stolen phones end up in shopping centers

By Luige A. del Puerto
Metro

YOUR stolen cell phone may find its way back to you if you are patient enough to survey second-hand stalls in Metro Manila, according to police and telecommunications officials.

It is widely believed that some of the phones being sold in shopping centers, such as Greenhills in San Juan or Arranque in Manila, are stolen. But exactly how many are on display at any given day has not been determined, said Insp. Miguel NuevaEspaña, chief of the Greenhills police.

He put the number at "one percent" of all phones in the shopping centers. At least two cases indicated as much, he said.

In May, a student was duped into giving his phone to someone whom he had just met, and who subsequently disappeared—a classic con job. He reported the case to the Galas Station in Quezon City.

One day, he chanced upon his phone in a Greenhills stall.

"We were able to confirm it through the serial number and

STOLEN PHONES/ A17

PGH nurses go bald, demand pay hike

By Blanche S. Rivera

NURSES at the Philippine General Hospital in Manila led health workers in shaving their heads yesterday to protest the low salaries they were getting from the government.

The nurses and utility employees represented the PGH's 3,900 employees, who are demanding an across-the-board salary increase of P3,000 a month to cope with the rising cost of living.

Written on their shaved heads was "P3,000."

"The shaved heads symbolize the near desperation ... of government workers under the regime of President Macapagal-Arroyo," said Jossel Ebesate, president of the All UP Workers Union in Manila.

Ebesate, a head nurse at the division of nursing research and development, said the shaved heads should call attention to the plight of health workers in the country "who are going bald in thinking of means to make ends meet."

He said utility workers in the country's premier state hospital were getting a gross monthly pay of P5,082 a month, lower than the minimum wage of around P8,000 in Metro Manila.

PGH nurses get a gross pay of around P9,000 while resident physicians receive only P15,841. Their salaries become even smaller because of monthly deductions, such as income tax and contributions to Philhealth and the Government Service Insurance System.

Health workers in private hospitals are getting even less, according to Ebesate.

"There are some physicians who do not even finish their training here anymore," said Dr. Mike Sionzon, president of the PGH Physicians Association.

"After a year, they either fly abroad to practice as doctors or study nursing and go as nurses because the offers are very attractive," he said.

Foreign employers, particularly in the United States, are offering Filipino nurses around $4,000 a month and a guarantee that they and members of their family will be granted US citizenship.

Like other health personnel, doctors need the P3,000 salary

PGH NURSES/ A4

Denies rift over gov't borrowings

THE NATIONAL treasurer, a key member of President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic team, has offered to resign as the government struggles with mounting financial woes.

Mina Figueroa, who oversees the government's finances and domestic borrowings, said she had tendered her resignation effective Oct. 15, but added that Ms Arroyo had not acted on it.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday confirmed that Figueroa had submitted her irrevocable letter of resignation to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Bunye said Ermita received the letter only yesterday afternoon although it was dated Sept. 10.

Figueroa told ABS-CBN television that she wanted to return to the private sector and denied reports she was quitting because of policy differences with other finance officials over the government's borrowings.

Figueroa first offered to resign in February, but she said other officials convinced her to stay. A private banker, she was appointed deputy treasurer in August 2001 and became national treasurer in February when Sergio Edeza resigned for financial reasons.

News of Figueroa's resignation comes at a jittery time when the Arroyo administration is grappling with a burgeoning foreign debt, a gaping budget deficit and rising oil prices.

Analysts have said the current fiscal crisis could lead to a financial meltdown similar to Argentina's in three years. Argentina defaulted on its public debt in 2001 because of its ballooning deficit and staggering debt.

A government source told Dow Jones NewsWires that Figueroa decided to leave after she was replaced as head of the treasury

NAT'L/ A8

Students win scholarships to rich school

By Jerome Aning

WHAT is the world's first popular carbonated drink? Coca-Cola.

Which 17th-century master painted "The Return of the Prodigal Son"? Rembrandt.

What is the "divine wind" to which the Japanese ascribe their repulsion of Mongol invaders in the late 13th century? Kamikaze..

Ever joined a quiz bee?

Six high school seniors from Manila's Chiang Kai-shek College correctly answered those three questions out of five ranked "difficult" in the final round of one such competition on Friday, besting their closest rivals from the Quezon City Science High School.

The stakes: for each of the victors, a 100-percent scholarship grant from the very exclusive Southville Foreign Colleges in Las Piñas City, an international institution, plus free books, uniforms,

STUDENTS/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2004

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole coutnry will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent over Eastern Luzon.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/14/04

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

80% of high school freshmen flunk test

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

DESPITE a slight improvement in test scores, an overwhelming majority of the 1.2 million freshmen in public high schools are still not ready for high school.

Preliminary data from the Department of Education showed that about 80 percent flunked their second High School Readiness Test on Aug. 31.

Only 19.75 percent of the students got a passing score of 50 percent in the 90-item test, according to the DepEd's National Educational Testing and Research Center.

Nevertheless, the scores in the second HSRT showed an improvement over the first HSRT on May 24 and June 16. Ninety-three percent of freshmen flunked the first HSRT and only 7.9 percent got a score of 50 percent and above.

Minimal

"You can say there has been a minimal improvement because there are more students who passed this time," said Nelia Benito, director of the NETRC.

"But (the passing mark) is still way below 75 percent which is our target," she stressed.

Only 1.16 percent of the students scored 75 percent and above in the second HSRT.

In the first HSRT, only 0.6 percent got a score of 75 percent and above.

Benito said they have already checked the test results of 115 public high schools out of more than 5,000.

She estimated that only about 900,000 freshmen took the second HSRT.

She said about 300,000 freshmen might have voluntarily entered the bridge program and did not take the second HSRT.

Originally, the DepEd wanted those who flunked the HSRT to take the "bridge program," a year-long tutorial program, before going to the regular four-year high school.

But when parents and teachers opposed the added school year, the DepEd made the bridge program "optional."

The DepEd through the NETRC conducted a second HSRT on Aug. 31, encouraging those who would flunk to take the bridge program.

Difficulty

Both tests posed 30 items each in English, Science and Math and had the same "content and degree of difficulty."

The bridge program was the brainchild of former education secretary Edilberto de Jesus, who has been replaced by ex-Batanes congressman Florencio Abad.

De Jesus argued that past tests showed that most public high school students graduate without mastering their English, Science and Math.

He said the one-year tutorial under the bridge program would arrest the declining quality of graduates in public schools.

Malacañang, however, did not support the bridge program.

Instead, it wanted to add one year of pre-school to the six-year elementary education.

Abad said he would continue De Jesus' programs although the bridge program would remain optional this year.

SENATE PROBE

Comelec tailored bid to favor one company

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE STORY is finally slowly coming out.

The Commission on Elections appears to have tailored its bidding process to suit the winning bidder in the botched multi-billion-peso automation project for the 2004 elections.

This was the initial finding of the Senate blue ribbon committee which is investigating the project that was awarded to Mega Pacific eSolutions Inc.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said after yesterday's committee hearing that "there seems to be unanimity among the committee members that the Comelec has not been able to answer effectively the question on the 20-million vote requirement. That seems to be the sticky (sic) point."

Arroyo was referring to the bid requirement that each automated counting machine (ACM) should be able to count 20 million ballots.

The requirement was among the three criteria imposed by the Comelec on pre-selected bidders. The other two conditions concerned the "valuation" or pricing of the counting machines and the "pass/fail binary methodology" for assessing the qualification of both the machines and the bidders.

Sen. Mar Roxas said the "bone of contention are the rules that the Comelec put in place to establish who would be qualified bidders."

Roxas said the committee found the 20-million votes requirement "highly questionable" since "on average our towns have no more than 50 to at most 100,000 voters."

Arroyo said that as a result, only two bidders qualified out of the original 13—Mega Pacific eSolutions Inc. and Total Information Management System.

He answered "yes" when asked if he thought the bidding process had been rigged to favor Mega Pacific.

Even Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borra was at a loss to explain the 20-million votes requirement.

"That is a valid observation... to be candid about it," he said.

Pressed by Arroyo and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile to explain, Borra could only say the requirement was "a decision of the commission."

He said the original terms of reference of the project were amended to include the 20-million votes requirement through Bid Bulletin No. 2 after a "discussion of this issue."

He did not elaborate, prompting Arroyo to require Borra to submit a sworn statement answering the questions raised by committee members during the next hearing.

"He himself did not defend it and could not recall how that requirement came about. So it's not just the senators, even Commissioner Borra is doubtful about it," observed Roxas.

Roxas pointed out the "pass/fail" test conducted by the Comelec was also questionable.

He said the checklist for the "pass/fail" test could have been formulated to allow Mega Pacific to be the only bidder to meet the standards.

"This, according to the private sector, served to eliminate those they did not want to bid," said Roxas, who noted that an 85 percent mark in the test was still a failing grade.

"It was 100 percent or nothing," he said.

Arroyo agreed, saying: "That is why [there had been complaints] that precisely the pass/fail test eliminated all others, leaving only Mega Pacific and Total. It was loaded in favor of Mega Pacific."

During the hearing, the Comelec and private consultant Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines, which was a member of the advisory council, debated the advice of the latter to divide the project into four sectors to minimize the cost.

But Borra said the Comelec had decided to package the project because "it was running out of time."

Arroyo said the Comelec had failed to "persuade the committee so far," referring to Borra and former Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco who attended the hearing.

"Whether the advice from the private sector was valid advice, and why it was ignored by the Comelec," was the context within which the committee was undertaking the review, Arroyo said.

Roxas said that since the country was looking at the next elections, "whatever lessons that we learn from this must be implemented in preparation for the 2007 elections so that we would not be in the Middle Ages anymore, at least we will be in the modern age of electoral process."

Arroyo said the ultimate aim of the hearing was to "introduce legislation that will correct the bidding process for the machines."

In a privilege speech on Aug. 18, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said the purchase of 1,991 automated counting machines by the Comelec was "grossly overpriced" by at least P300 million.

He said the Filipino people ended up the losers because when the contract was rescinded by the high court, the machines had already been bought and paid for.

Pimentel said official documents showed that the Comelec paid Mega Pacific P856,914,796 for the ACMs although the actual cost of the machines was only P550,810,150, for a loss to the government of P306,104,646.

"The cost of the ACMs accounted for the lion's share of the total price of P1,248,949,088 of the poll computerization contract awarded to Mega Pacific," said the opposition senator.

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NEWSPAPER DRIVE
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
News that makes a difference [illegible]

Int'l monitors' key concern: Ceasefire, not terror links

By Alcuin Papa

THE MALAYSIA-LED international monitoring team overseeing the ceasefire between the Philippine military and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front is not likely to investigate the alleged links between the Muslim secessionist group and the Jemaah Islamiyah, the Indonesia-based terror group with links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network, defense officials said yesterday.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz told reporters the primary task of the monitoring team is to ensure the ceasefire between the government and the MILF in the southern Philippines was adhered to ahead of the resumption of peace talks between the two sides in Kuala Lumpur in October.

Members of the nine-man advance monitoring team led by Brig. Gen. Mohd Ammad bin Sulong paid a courtesy call on Cruz at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday. They were accompanied by Malaysian ambassador-designate Iskander Sarudin.

"The job really of the monitoring team is to see to it that the ceasefire is not disrupted," said Cruz, when he was asked if the monitoring team would investigate the alleged presence of JI members in MILF training camps in Mindanao.

Defense and military officials had repeatedly claimed that between 40 and 60 JI members were training local and foreign terrorists in the Mt. Kararao range which straddles Lanao del Sur and Cotabato provinces, an area the MILF reportedly controls.

The MILF has repeatedly denied harboring JI members.

On the other hand, it has invited the monitoring team, as well as other interested parties, to come to Mt. Kararao to dispel "once and for all" the suspicion that it was hiding terrorists.

"We sent out invitations to them (Philippine and Malaysian governments) last month and we are just waiting for their response," said MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu in a telephone interview.

"We are open to anybody inspecting the area. There is already cooperation with the (Manila) government and we are willing to continue and strengthen this," he said.

But while the MILF was committed to the peace talks, it was possible there were foreign militants operating out of its spheres of influence in the south, he told Agence France Presse.

"This is a Southeast Asian problem. We can't say there aren't any foreigners (militants) in Mindanao," Kabalu said. "The point is there already is cooperation with government and we are willing to continue this and strengthen this."

But Kabalu was quick to point out that a visit by the monitoring team to Mt. Kararao would be subject to the Terms of Reference being drafted by the Malaysian and Philippine governments and the MILF. The Terms of Reference will lay down the guidelines for the deployment of the international monitoring team in the country.

The joint Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) of the government and the MILF is expected to visit Mt. Kararao early next month ahead of the arrival of the main international monitoring team.

Cruz said the bulk of the main monitoring team, consisting of around 60 individuals, is expected in the country the middle of next month.

The formal resumption of peace talks between the government and the MILF in Kuala Lumpur is expected to follow soon after the visit.

The nine-man advance party also paid a visit on Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya after their call on Cruz. The party is expected to call on Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo before flying to Mindanao.

Solon takes back resignation

By Carlito Pablo

REP. Antonio Diaz (Lakas) last night took back his offer to resign as the representative of the second district of Zambales.

Diaz withdrew his resignation four days after he had informed Speaker Jose de Venecia on Sept. 9 that he was vacating his congressional seat.

In a letter to the Speaker's office last night, Diaz said he was heeding the advice of his friends in Congress, particularly De Venecia, to reconsider his earlier decision.

"On deeper reflection, I have realized that tendering my resignation will deprive my constituency of representation in Congress for almost two years," Diaz said in the letter.

He said that by resigning, his constituents "will be surely orphaned."

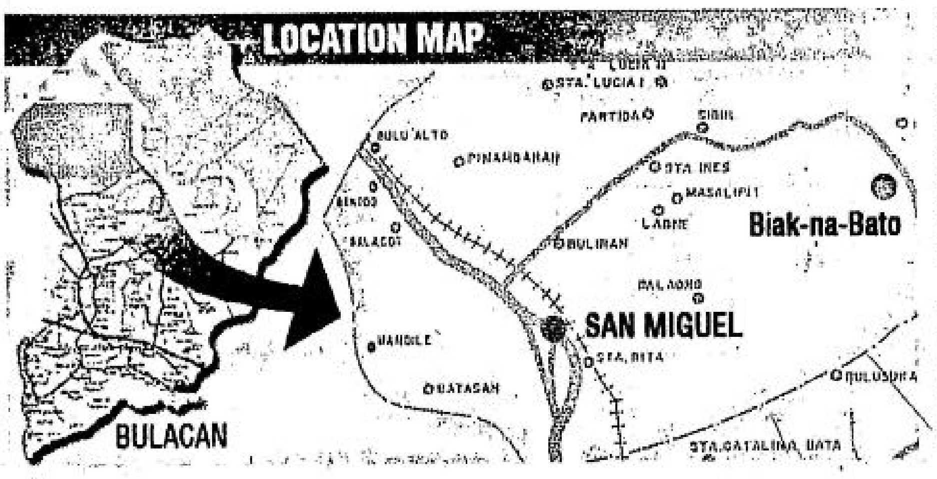
"Taking care of my constituents is my paramount duty," he added.

Majority Leader Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) had said that Diaz had until today to reconsider his decision or the House committee on rules, which Nograles chairs, would submit his resignation letter to the plenary for approval.

In his resignation letter, Diaz had said it was no longer an honor to serve as a member of Congress.

In subsequent radio interviews, he admitted that among his reasons for resigning were his failure to be appointed one of the deputy speakers of the House and the difficulty he was encountering in securing funds, apparently pork barrel, for projects in his district.

7 drown in raging Bulacan river; 1 still missing



By Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—Six children from Metro Manila and an adult companion drowned while another child remained missing on Sunday after they were swept away by the strong currents of the Biak-na-Bato river here.

Chief Insp. Prudencio Legaspi, local police chief, identified the fatalities as Bessie Sanchez, 4; Mitchelyn Anne Santiago, 7; Mark Robert Pineda, 12; Gladys Villongco, 9; Yahnie Rivero, 13; Diether Capalad, 8, and Marian Santiago, 26.

Missing was 9-year-old Mark Alvin Pineda.

Legaspi said the bodies of the seven victims were retrieved one by one on Monday, some as far as 14 kilometers from the spot where they went out for a swim, by policemen, soldiers and village officials from Biak-na-Bato and nearby Barangay San Juan.

Investigation showed the victims went for a swim in the river at the Biak-na-Bato National Park at around 2 p.m. on Sunday after attending a baptismal party in Barangay San Juan.

They were carried away by the strong current when it rained at 5:30 p.m.

Illegal logging had denuded the surrounding hills, allowing rainwater to quickly swell the river in the historic park popular with spelunkers, picnickers and swimmers, police said.

A resident who served as the victims' guide had warned them to get out of the river but the victims ignored her, Legaspi said.

"People were warning them to stay off the river, which had suddenly swelled and become choppy, but they were hard-headed," Legaspi told The Associated Press by telephone. *With an AP report*

QUORUM QUESTIONED

High court recalls death sentence on rape convict

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court has recalled its decision affirming the death sentence on a rape convict after he pointed out that only seven of the 14 high court justices signed the ruling affirming his conviction.

In a three-page resolution dated Sept. 7, the tribunal set the case of convict Gerry H. Ebio for re-deliberation after it noted that the Constitution was silent on whether having only seven justices present in an en banc session constitute a quorum.

"Considering that the life of the accused is at stake, we deem it wise to resubmit the case to the Court en banc for re-deliberation," the high court said.

The Sorsogon Regional Trial Court had convicted Ebio for raping his 11-year-old daughter. On Oct. 14, 2002, the Supreme Court affirmed his conviction and his death sentence.

But in his motion for reconsideration, Ebio pointed out that only seven out of the 14 Supreme Court justices signed the ruling since the other seven were on official leave at that time.

Ebio raised the issue of whether the votes of only seven justices can validly impose the death penalty and whether there is a need for a quorum when the court sits in en banc. The high court agreed to take a second look at his case.

"There is no question that the court's decision in this case was concurred in by the majority of the members of the court who actually took part in the deliberations. It was in fact unanimously signed by the seven justices who were present during the deliberations," the court said.

"The issue now is whether the seven constitute a quorum of the 14-member court," it added.

However, the tribunal noted that the 1987 Constitution "does not expressly state the number of justices required to be present to constitute a quorum of the court en banc."

It added that the deliberations of the 1986 constitutional commission were also silent on what constitutes a quorum when the court is composed of only 14 members.

"In case of doubt in a criminal case, especially where the death penalty is imposed, the doubt should be resolved in favor of the accused," the high court said.

SC okays easier hiring by trial courts of sign language interpreters

By Philip C. Tubeza

TO HELP the hearing- and speech-impaired and to avoid trial delays, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. on Friday made it easier for courts around the country to hire sign language interpreters.

In a memorandum, Davide authorized court administrator Presbitero Velasco Jr. to grant requests of trial court judges to hire sign language interpreters in their salas to help the hearing- and speech-impaired litigants and witnesses during court proceedings.

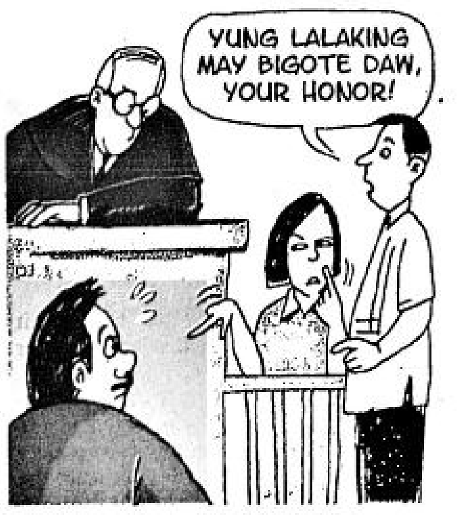
"The order is expected to facilitate cases before trial courts involving parties or witnesses who may require a sign language interpreter to be fully understood," Davide said.

"The hiring of such services would also prevent the possible miscarriage of justice," he added.

Before, the Office of the Court Administrator had to ask the permission of the Supreme Court before allowing a trial court judge to hire a sign language interpreter—a procedure that sometimes caused delays.

But under Memorandum Order No. 59-2004, Davide not only allowed the court administrator to grant requests to hire interpreters, he was also authorized to fix their fees on a per-day or a per-appearance basis.

Davide said the fees shall be charged against the savings in appropriations for the lower courts.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House wants PR expert to handle image problem

From page A1

graft-ridden pork barrel, the House is considering hiring a PR expert who can change the public perception that the chamber has degenerated into a den of thieves.

Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (Lakas, Surigao del Norte) yesterday disclosed the House plan as he announced that he was resigning as the majority bloc's spokesperson.

"A politician like me can't do it. It has to be a professional practitioner whose sole focus is the image-building of the House," Barbers said.

For years, the House has been hounded by reports that its lawmakers have been greasing their palms with kickbacks from their multimillion-peso pork barrel. House members are each allotted a P70-million pork barrel in the Cabinet's proposed national budget that they are supposed to scrutinize—a case of conflict of interest that has further eroded the chamber's credibility.

In the face of the fiscal crisis, the Catholic Church and other sectors have been pressuring lawmakers from both the House and Senate to give up their pork barrel—an austerity measure that is expected to save the government about P20 billion annually.

'Ridiculous'

For his part, Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. (PDP-Laban, Makati) dismissed as "ridiculous" the House plan to hire a PR expert.

"PR can't save Congress anymore. It's a pity that it has come to this," Locsin said.

"Then Congressman Joker Arroyo once said that the House was the intelligent chamber. We (the House) do all the technical work in the preparation of bills. The Senate does all the posturing," he said.

Locsin said that only the House itself could improve its own image by, among other things, asserting its independence from Malacañang, and strictly guarding its function of making laws and its power over the purse.

"Everything emanates from Malacañang. People are asking: What's the House for? Congress is always subservient," he said.

Barbers said the idea of hiring a PR practitioner for the House surfaced in a caucus last week amid calls for Congress to give up its pork barrel.

But because the chamber had no budget for such an undertaking, Barbers said it was suggested that lawmakers dip into their own pockets to pay for the services of the PR expert.

"It will be the contribution of all congressmen," said Barbers, chair of the House committee on accounts.

The lawmaker was previously being considered the spokesperson for the entire House, but the minority bloc insisted on having its own talking heads.

PGH nurses go bald, demand pay hike

From page A1

increase proposed by the union because they, too, are having difficulty meeting their basic needs, according to Sionzon. The cost of living for a family of six in Metro Manila as of November 2003 was estimated at P16,739.70 a month, or P557.99 daily.

Resident physicians are overworked. Despite being on duty up to 36 hours straight, they still have to attend to administrative matters, according to Sionzon.

The PGH Physicians Association urged Congress to legislate a salary increase for health workers in government hospitals and increase the budget for government hospitals to encourage doctors and nurses to practice in the country.

The hospital, which is under the administration of the University of the Philippines Manila, was given a P1-billion budget by the national government for this fiscal year.

"The government should increase the salary to keep our health professionals in the Philippines and give enough budget to improve medical facilities and supplies of hospitals so they could serve better," Sionzon said.

About 30 PGH employees were lined up for a haircut at the PGH flag pole at noon yesterday. A noise barrage followed.

Migrants

Similar protest actions are set at the Tondo Medical Center, Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Philippine Children's Medical Center and the Philippine Heart Center.

Sionzon warned that health service in the country would further deteriorate if the government could not keep its health experts.

Data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration showed that from 1996 to 2002, 3,657 doctors, 16,124 nurses, 1,095 midwives and 543 medical technologists had left for work abroad, although the POEA admitted that there were more who left as migrants and did not go through the POEA. *(See table.)*

The government has created a technical working group to trace the flight of nurses and the compensation package they receive abroad, and then find ways to bring them back to the country after a few years.

The UP Institute for Health Policy and Development Studies said that one concern for Filipino health workers who go abroad was the lack of opportunities to practice in the Philippines when they come back.

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JESS YUSON

THEY LEFT FOR JOBS ABROAD

Doctors	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Total	%
USA	205	162	110	55	146	155	180	2956	80.83
Canada	20	24	12	8	11	17	15	393	10.75
Australia	4	3	4	2	1	4	8	197	5.39
Japan	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	7	0.19
Germany	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.08
UK	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	0.16
New Zealand	46	10	1	0	0	0	0	82	2.24
Others	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	13	0.36
								3657	100.00
Nurses									
USA	365	318	226	306	1075	1381	2075	13567	84.14
Canada	88	65	49	41	98	141	127	1566	9.71
Australia	16	24	26	15	34	39	37	612	3.80
Japan	4	5	1	1	5	2	6	46	0.29
Germany	2	11	9	3	3	3	3	73	0.45
UK	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	29	0.18
New Zealand	18	4	2	0	4	2	6	56	0.35
Others	11	8	7	4	11	7	12	175	1.09
								16124	100.00
Professional Midwife									
USA	49	43	64	25	13	35	29	682	62.28
Canada	4	11	5	5	2	3	3	109	9.95
Australia	3	7	4	4	1	2	3	98	8.95
Japan	2	2	7	3	2	6	0	46	4.20
Germany	2	4	11	2	5	7	1	61	5.57
UK	0	3	0	3	0	1	1	14	1.28
New Zealand	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	7	0.64
Others	5	6	8	5	3	4	5	78	7.12
								1095	100.00
Medical Technologist									
USA	0	0	35	17	59	36	22	170	31.31
Canada	0	0	50	22	81	103	59	315	58.01
Australia	0	0	10	3	14	8	6	41	7.55
Japan	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	6	1.10
Germany	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	0.74
UK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
New Zealand	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	3	0.55
Others	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	4	0.74
								543	100.00

Source: POEA 2003

Students win scholarships to school for rich

From page A1

and a monthly allowance for three school years.

In all, six teams from Metro Manila, Leyte, Davao City and South Cotabato participated in the "Fourth Global Dimensions Olympiad: The Search for Dr. Walter Leibrecht Scholars," organized by the SFC, with the Rotary Club of Makati Salcedo.

It was the third straight year that the CKC topped the competition, named after the founder of an SFC affiliate, the Florida-based Schiller International University.

How to score

"I'm speechless; it was very exciting," said CKC team captain Dexter Joseph Tan as he emerged from second and last leg of the quiz bee, held at the Insular Life Auditorium in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. The entire contest had taken four hours.

Tan and his teammates—Charless William Ang, Angela Lisandra Lee, Sam Christian Lee, Jason Sim and Dyane Blythe Uy—agreed that their win hadn't been just a matter of knowing the right answers.

That often came only next to hitting the buzzer ahead of the opponent, they said. Two equally important factors in scoring points, they added, were anticipating the questions and giving the accurate response within the prescribed time limit.

According to Tan, the team worked very hard with their coaches Finina Contreras, Sanet Hipolito, Cynthia Yap and Brenda Ong. Nonstop reviews sometimes took the whole day, he said.

Apparently, this routine could get under one's skin. The CKC students, who dedicated their victory "to God and to our school," skipped the cocktail reception following Friday's competition because they were preparing for another one the next day.

The quiz bee teams had grappled with questions in Math, English, natural and physical sciences, world history, geography, international personalities, social studies, the arts, and information technology.

Something for everyone

Third placer was the Eastern Visayas campus of the Philippine Science High School. The three other teams who made it to the semi-finals came from the Ateneo de Davao University, the Muntinlupa Science High School, and the Dole Philippines School in Polomolok, South Cotabato.

Actually, everyone went home a winner. As runners-up, the QCSHS team members each received a 90-percent SFC scholarship; the PSHS students, 80 percent; those of the Ateneo, Muntinlupa and Dole teams, 60 percent. More than 340 students—from 58 other schools—who made it to last month's qualifying examinations, were automatically awarded a 50-percent scholarship each.

Dole's Lear Baldostamon, 15, got a 100-percent scholarship on his own for getting the highest score during that initial screening, to which the participating schools had sent six candidates each.

"I was not really going for an [individual] award. I just did my best for my school, myself and God," Baldostamon told the INQUIRER. He said he intended to take up International Business, major in Information Techology, at the SFC.

Dole finished fourth, but Baldostamon said his teammates were all happy with what they got. After all, he said, they had competed with possibly the best students in the country.

Beauty and brains

In an interesting sidelight, another Dole team member, 16-year-old Mercedita Natividad, was cited for having won a beauty pageant, "Diwata ng Polomolok," on Thursday.

The quiz hosts called her on stage to walk and pose. "I invite tourists to go to Polomolok. It's a peaceful town where Christians and Muslims live happily," she said. The audience was charmed.

Natividad, who said she wanted to be a doctor someday, had opted to come to Manila for the SFC contest instead of attending the post-pageant parade in her town, also on Friday. The quiz bee presented the bigger help for her future, she explained.

The brainy "Diwata" also promoted Kalsangi, her hometown's main tourist attraction. It had a climate like Baguio's, she said, as well as resorts, golf courses, and picnic groves amid pine forests.

Not just for the rich

Dr. Rodolfo Ibañez, SFC president, said the college sought to keep its number of scholars to 20 percent of the student population. It offers three-year courses in International Business, International Marketing, Advertising and Public Relations Management, Information Technology, Computer Science and Hotel and Restaurant Management.

Through the Leibrecht grants, Ibañez said, the SFC was reaching out to gifted high school seniors across the country. He admitted that the school, established in 1998, used to be limited to children of affluent families because of high tuition. Now, he said, it was able to offer the same curriculum as other international schools abroad, at one third of the cost of studying overseas.

For any of the three-year courses, a student pays a $21,000 tuition, or $7,000 a year.

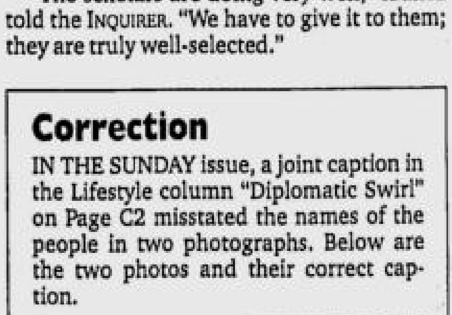
Freshmen take up a six-week remedial program in English, Math and Science, to fully prepare for their courses, Ibañez said.

Alfred Milevoi, chair of the School of Business and Management, pointed out that the scholars obviously motivated the other students, and that many seemed intent on pursuing post-graduate courses in Schiller and in other SFC affiliates—the I.H.M.E.S. (Institute of Hospitality Management and English Studies) International Hotel School in the Isle of Man, United Kingdom; London City College, and the American City University in Wyoming.

"The scholars are doing very well," Ibañez told the INQUIRER. "We have to give it to them; they are truly well-selected."

Correction

IN THE SUNDAY issue, a joint caption in the Lifestyle column "Diplomatic Swirl" on Page C2 misstated the names of the people in two photographs. Below are the two photos and their correct caption.



MICHAEL Chan and Mrs. Zita (left photo). At right photo is businessman-artist Jose Mari Chan (right) with Mr. Tom Zita

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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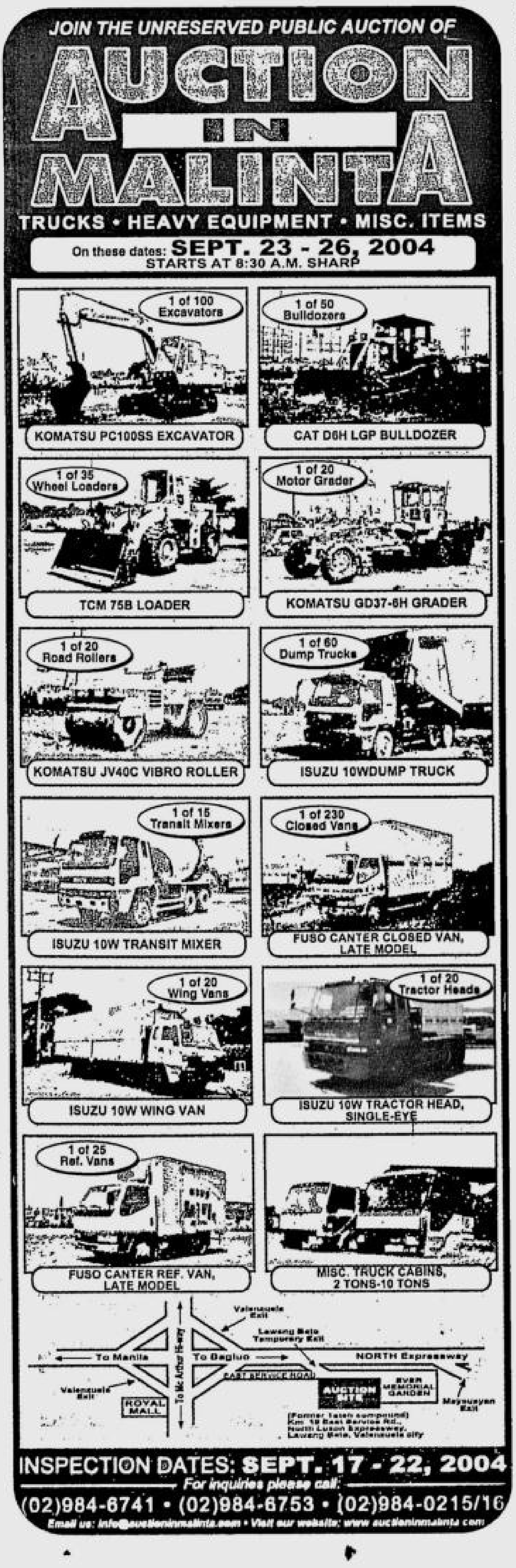
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Massive Luzon railway projects to cost at least $5B

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's massive railway infrastructure development projects in Metro Manila and Northern and Southern Luzon are expected to drag the country deeper into debt by at least $5 billion.

Based on the Department of Transportation and Communication's status report on the railway projects (a copy was obtained by the INQUIRER), at least six urban railway projects in Metro Manila and two railroad projects for the rest of Luzon—North Rail and South Rail—are under evaluation or have been approved or endorsed for approval by Ms Arroyo under her Strong Republic Transit System.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, in an interview last week, said that these projects would be funded from the official development assistance (ODA) and private loans all guaranteed by the national government. Neri said the government had no choice but to undertake these railroad projects, despite the fiscal crisis, because these were sorely needed by the economy.

The six urban railway projects and their targeted implementation date are the $200-million Edsa MRT extension (2005), $958-million MRT 4 from Old Bilibid prison to Batasan in Quezon City (2005), $842.87-million Light Rail Transit 1 southern extension (2006), $204-million Mass Rail Transit (MRT) 2 Masinag extension (2006), $1.428-billion MRT 7 from the Malinta exit of the North Luzon Expressway to Fairview to North Avenue (2007), and MRT 8 from Sta. Mesa Manila to Angono, Rizal (2008).

The two major railroad projects for Luzon are the $503-million North Rail project from Caloocan to Malolos (2004) and the $64-million South Rail (2005).

The railroad projects are expected to cost much higher since planners pegged the foreign exchange rate at P53 to $1.

Ms Arroyo is aggressively pushing for the implementation of these railroad projects although she admitted that the government's fiscal crisis was brought about by mounting payments on loans incurred by government-owned and controlled corporations, specifically the National Power Corp.

In one of her weekly Pulong Bayan late last month, the President ordered her officials to rush the implementation of these projects, specifically North Rail, that were needed to decongest Metro Manila and spread economic wealth to other provinces in Luzon.

Philippine Export Confederation president Sergio Ortiz-Luis said that while he believed the railroad projects should be treated as an investment rather than an expense, the government should take extra care in choosing the best financing terms, technology and ensuring these projects' viability with the least government support.

Bright future for bio-fuel seen

By Norman Bordadora

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture is pushing for the development of ethanol as a viable bio-fuel for gas-fed engines, according to Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap.

This came after the Philippines and Thailand agreed to come up with regional fuel standards for the use of the sugar by-product as a gasoline additive.

Yap sees a bright future in this direction for the country's fledgling bio-fuel sector since the Philippines is exporting sugat and has an excess production of 230,000 metric tons that "traders are selling at a loss."

"This could be used in producing ethanol, a by-product of the sugar industry," Yap said.

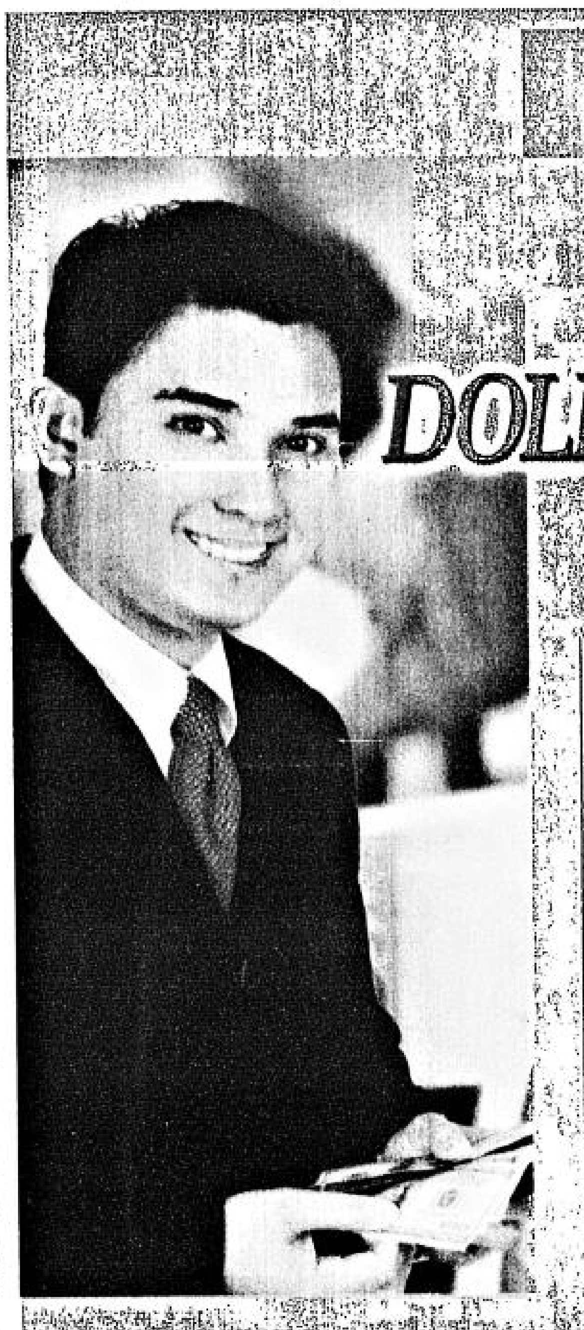
Aside from ethanol, the agriculture department has been pushing for the development of coco diesel as another viable fuel blend for engines.

Yap advocated the promotion of bio-fuels as reliable and indigenous alternatives to crude oil especially since they are "cleaner" than petroleum products.

As a fuel alternative, ethanol can be used in three ways: It can be blended with gasoline; it can be used as a component of reformulated gasoline; or it can used as a primary fuel with gasoline as a blend.

A joint statement by Energy Secretary Vincent Perez and Thai Energy Minister Prommin Lertsuridej after their meeting in Bangkok confirms that "there is an abundance of agricultural products within the Asean that may be used as feed stocks for the production of bio-fuels such as ethanol."

In their meeting, the two energy chiefs agreed to develop ethanol as an alternative transport fuel and conduct research on the feasibility of its use. They will also enjoin car manufacturers doing business in the Asean to make vehicle engines ethanol fuel compliant, while working on the technical specification of the fuel blend.



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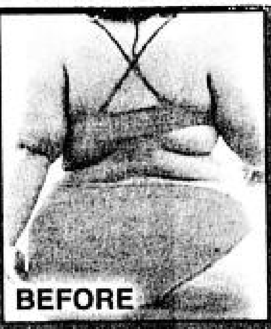

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48 Metro, CL cops test positive for drug use

By Nelson Forte Flores

FORTY-EIGHT policemen from Metro Manila and Central Luzon tested positive for drug use after last month's random testing of more than 1,000 law enforcers.

Administrative proceedings have been initiated against the drug-using policemen, Philippine National Police Deputy Director General Ricardo de Leon said yesterday. The Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force chief declined to identify the lawmen pending the conclusion of the investigation.

De Leon said AIDSOTF lawyers were also studying the possibility of filing a criminal case against the 48 policemen for violating the provisions of Republic Act No. 9165 (Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of the Philippines for 2001).

Of the 21 Metro Manila-based drug-using policemen, eight were detailed with the Central Police District Office, four each from the Eastern and Southern Police District Offices, three from the Northern Police District Office and two from the Western Police District Office. He added that three were even members of anti-narcotics units and "were involved in anti-illegal drug operations."

He said the remaining 27 policemen were from Central Luzon.

De Leon vowed to conduct more random drug tests nationwide to rid the PNP of drug users.

He also plans to meet with religious and community leaders to ask their help in the government's war against illegal drugs.

"What we are planning to do in the first 100 days is to form linkages with the religious and the private sectors and the academe to strengthen this campaign against illegal drugs," De Leon said.

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Palace asked to explain ₱50-B overspending in 2004 budget

By Cynthia D. Balana

HOUSE Minority Leader Rep. Francis Escudero (NPC, 1st dist., Sorsogon) yesterday asked Malacañang to explain why the government had so far overspent the reenacted 2003 budget by over P50 billion this year.

In a press conference, Escudero said the overspending was discovered by congressmen who were scrutinizing documents submitted by the Department of Budget and Management for the proposed 2005 national budget.

Escudero said that since the government was operating under a reenacted budget this year, it could not spend more than the P804-billion outlay approved in 2003.

He said documents showed, however, that the government had already spent P861 billion so far this year. This exceeds the 2004 budget by P57 billion with more than three months to go in the year.

"This is a big question because it turns out the government has already overspent by over P50 billion. This is why we have this fiscal crisis because of the misuse of public funds, not because of lack of revenues," Escudero said.

Asked where the excess spending went, he said the government still followed the budget proposal for 2004 even if Congress failed to pass the appropriation for lack of time, which resulted in the reenactment of the 2003 budget.

"Where did the government get the power and the authority to spend more than what was allocated by Congress? This is clearly a violation of the law, a violation of the General Appropriations Act," he said.

Told that the overspending may be due to inflation and the high foreign exchange rate, Escudero said this was beside the point.

"This is a reenacted budget. You cannot spend more than what was approved," he said.

Escudero said the government had no right to impose new taxes on the people when it could not explain its misuse of public funds.

Majority Leader Rep. Prospero Nograles, meanwhile, said all departments and line agencies of the government should prepare to make sacrifices and slash their budgets by as much as 40 percent as part of cost-saving measures.

Nograles said it was not easy for congressmen, particularly those who belonged to poor districts, to agree to cut or abolish their pork barrel allocations.

ESCUDERO JOAN BONDOC

"Many congressmen really depend on their Priority Development Assistance Fund to serve their constituents but we are all prepared to do whatever is necessary to avert a full-blown fiscal crisis. Various departments and line agencies should do the same," he said.

Nograles said government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) should also reduce their financial dependence on the national government since large government funds were being wasted to sustain their operations.

"These GOCCs should not be part of the problem but the solution. We cannot keep on sustaining these institutions, wasting a lot of government money which ought to go to social services such as health care and housing," he said.

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Mayon spews out fragments but Phivolcs rules out explosion

LEGASPI CITY—The historic Mayon volcano spewed out fragments amid signs that magma was rising in its crater, a state monitoring official said yesterday.

Ed Villacorte of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said that volcanic material was emitted by Mayon late Sunday, possibly due to rising gas pressure. The volcanic material set fire to the grass on the volcano's slopes, he added.

Monitoring instruments also indicated that the Albay volcano had magma rising toward its crater, intensifying the glow in the crater so that it was visible to the naked eye, Villacorte said.

But he minimized the danger, saying "there is magma going up but the volume is not yet big enough to create a volcanic explosion."

Phivolcs resident volcanologist Eduardo Laguerta said that Mayon still remains on alert level two, meaning that the volcano is undergoing abnormal activity but an eruption is not yet imminent.

He emphasized that people should stay out of the 6-km danger zone around the volcano in case of any sudden eruption.

The volcano, a famous tourist attraction, last erupted in February 2000 although no one was directly killed by the eruption.

Its deadliest eruption was in 1911 when more than 1,000 people were believed killed. *AFP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, September 14, 2004
The Exaltation of the Cross

1st Reading:	Num 21:4-9
2nd Reading:	Phil 2:6-11
Gospel:	Jn 3:13-17

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "No one has ever gone up to heaven except the one who came from heaven, the Son of Man.

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but may have eternal life. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world; instead, through him the world is to be saved."

Commentary

NICODEMUS cannot have been a very great teacher-and Jesus hinted it-because Jews at that time spoke of converts to Judaism as people who were "born again." He didn't seem quite to understand this expression.

The Varieties of Religious Experience by William James, first issued in 1902, is an enduring classic. There he illustrates the contrast between the "once-born" and the "twice-born" (or "born again") Christian. The soul of the once-born (or "healthy-minded," as he calls them) "is of a sky-blue tint their affinities are rather with flowers and birds and all enchanting innocencies than with dark human passions [they] can think no ill of man or God. They have a certain complacency and perhaps romantic sense of excitement." In contrast to these, the "twice-born" or "morbid-minded" are more likely to feel that "from the bottom of every fountain of pleasure, as the old poet said, something bitter rises up." All natural happiness is infected; there is a deep sense of sin and failure. To people of this stamp, the attitude of the once-born seems "unspeakably blind and shallow," while to the once-born the attitude of these "seems unmanly and diseased."

These are still battling it out, under new names: "creation-centered spirituality" versus "sin/redemption spirituality." Original blessing or original sin? Nature or the Cross? But we mustn't forget that it was the same Jesus who said, "Behold the lilies of the field..." and who died on the Cross. The challenge, as always, is to refuse to become partisan, but rather to enter into the drama and refuse to be limited by labels.

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RP consulate in HK still open Sundays

By TJ Burgonio

THE PHILIPPINE Consulate in Hong Kong will stay open on Sundays.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo announced yesterday that the consulate in China's special administrative region would remain open on Sundays to serve the more than 100,000 Filipinos working there.

His announcement came in the wake of protests by domestic workers over the proposal by Consul General Corazon Belmonte-Jover to close the consulate on Sundays in keeping with the government's austerity program.

Romulo said the consulate staff would continue to work on Sundays "to facilitate the delivery of consular and related services" to the estimated 124,000 workers based in Hong Kong.

At present, the consulate is closed on Fridays and Saturdays but is open on Sundays. It started opening on Sundays two years ago following a massive campaign by the United Filipinos in Hong Kong and Coalition Against Government Exactions.

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E. Timor seeks RP support to join Asean forum

DILI—East Timor's Foreign Minister Jose Ramos-Horta will seek support for his impoverished country's bid to join a major regional security forum during a forthcoming trip to Manila, his office said Monday.

Ramos-Horta is due to begin a two-day official visit to the Philippines on Tuesday, where talks will focus on the possibility of Dili becoming a member of the ASEAN Regional Forum.

He will then fly on to New York where he will attend the 59th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

"The objective of the visit is to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries and to exchange views on common interests regarding regional and international issues," Ramos-Horta said before leaving Dili.

"Timor Leste will also use the visit to seek the Philippines' support for Timor Lestes' bid to join the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)," he added.

ARF links the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations with 13 other Asia-Pacific states and the European Union.

Membership of the group would be a major boost to East Timor, also known as Timor Leste, as the former Indonesian province struggles for stability two years after achieving full independence.

RAMOS-HORTA arriving today

In New York, besides addressing the UN General Assembly, Ramos-Horta will attend a high-level meeting of world leaders to discuss additional finances for the eradication of poverty and hunger worldwide.

The minister will also travel to South Korea before returning home on Oct. 4. *AFP*

Muslim schools to start teaching English, Filipino

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE *MADARIS* or traditional Muslim schools would soon teach English, Filipino and other mainstream subjects to their students.

"Opening up our *madrasah* (singular of *madaris*) would disabuse the government from thinking that its a breeding ground for terrorists," said Maulama Faisal Abdullah of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao's Department of Education.

"This is a giant step. This is a landmark accomplishment," said Manaros Boransing, education undersecretary for Mindanao affairs.

The *madaris*, which follow the Middle East curriculum, have remained unrecognized by the government. This will soon change.

Integration plan

A DepEd team led by Boransing and Muslim educators have been collaborating for the last three years to integrate the *madaris* into the mainstream educational system.

Last month, they finally came up with a standard curriculum for elementary public schools in the ARMM and the privately-run *madaris*.

"Public schools do not include Arabic language and Islamic values so Muslims are ignorant of their religion and the language of the Holy Qua-an," the DepEd pointed out. "On the other hand, private *madaris* do not follow the Philippine education curriculum, so their students become foreigners in their own country."

Under the standard curriculum, which will be implemented next school year, the madaris would teach English and Filipino alongside their regular subjects of Arabic, Bangsamoro history and Islamic studies. The following subjects would also be taught: Math (Hisab), Science and Health (Oloom was Sihhat) and Makabayan (Ijtimaiyah) which consists of Muslim culture and history, Physical Education and the Arts.

Islamic values

Also starting next school year, public elementary schools in the ARMM, would also teach Arabic and Islamic values alongside the regular subjects of English, Filipino, Science and Health, Math and Makabayan.

Like the public schools, the *madaris* have six years in the elementary level.

"We want our students to learn Arabic so they'll understand the Koran," Abdullah said.

"And since they'll be learning English, this means our (*madaris*) students can go to university," he said.

The DepEd team said it aimed for a "smooth transfer of students from public schools to private *madaris* and vice versa."

The new curriculum would "unify the long history of dichotomy among Muslims, promote Filipino national identity, and at the same time preserve the Muslims' cultural heritage," the team said.

The order for the standard curriculum was one of the last documents signed by former Education Secretary Edilberto De Jesus before he stepped down on Sept. 1.

Pentagon man nabbed in South

By Alcuin Papa

A MEMBER of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang was arrested by the Philippine Marines in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao on Saturday.

A report from the Marines identified the suspect as Tantoh Alih, alias "Tani."

The suspect was nabbed inside a safehouse of the Pentagon group.

Alih is believed to be involved in the kidnapping of a grains trader in 2000.

Military intelligence has identified the Pentagon as a ragtag group of Muslims reportedly protected by the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The United States has classified the group as a terrorists group after it abducted several foreigners in central Mindanao, where it mostly operates.

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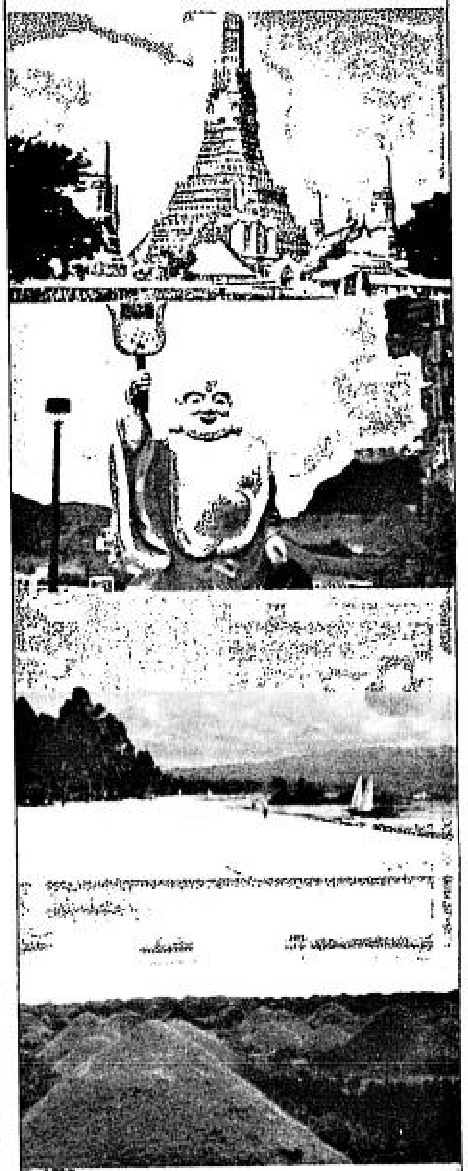

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House pork barrel stays after all

From page A1

to line item budgeting."

Asked if the senior House members at the caucus merely dropped the name of the pork, officially known as the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), but retained their pork allocations, Escudero said, "well, not all of the funds."

Under the proposed budget for 2005 it submitted to the House, Malacañang slashed by 40 percent the pork allocation for House members and senators to address the fiscal crisis.

Without the reduction, each House member is allocated P70 million and each senator P200 million.

Perception

Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara (LDP, lone district, Aurora) said what was being abolished was the perception that House members had complete control over the pork.

Angara said the district projects to be identified by legislators would be in line with the priority programs of the government.

Despite claims by some of his colleagues that the pork was not being scrapped, Rep. Prospero Pichay (Lakas, Surigao del Sur) slammed skeptics for describing the House decision to abolish the pork as a deceptive ploy.

"Perhaps these skeptics should show us the same brand of leadership by sacrificing for the greater good instead of constantly aiming their shots at lawmakers without offering any solution to the fiscal problem," Pichay said.

Senators appear to be ready to call the bluff of House leaders like De Venecia and Pichay to give up their pork barrel.

A number of senators said they would await with "great interest" the House version of the proposed 2005 national budget.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said the House version should end up P8 billion lower than the proposed P907.6-billion national budget for next year.

"If the statement is true that they're deleting the pork barrel, then the General Appropriations Bill that would come to us should reflect the deletion by reducing the (budget) by P40 million x 200 congressmen. That should be the reduction," Drilon told reporters.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said the test of the pudding was in the eating. "Let us look at the end of the year if anyone has really given up their pork barrel among the congressmen."

"It remains to be seen whether that would be really fulfilled by Jose de Venecia," Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. reacted.

Power play

But for Sen. Joker Arroyo, the House bid to scrap its pork barrel was part of a "power play" between Congress and Malacañang.

"So let the best man win," said Arroyo who said the real question was "who will blink first?"

"I will have to tell you that this is a very good game about scrapping the pork barrel and resorting to line item (budgeting)," he told reporters in the Senate. "I think you have to watch it because this is a very interesting game."

Asked to explain further, Arroyo said the move was merely "positioning" by Malacañang and Congress.

He earlier said the request of President Arroyo to scrap by 40 percent the PDAF of Congress was questionable because the President herself enjoyed billions of pesos of pork barrel.

The maverick senator suggested that Ms Arroyo herself set the example by giving up her social and intelligence funds and other pork hidden in the yearly General Appropriations Act.

He said the debate over the abolition of pork barrel was nothing new, saying that in the end the protagonists would reach a modus vivendi.

Hidden pork

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said that it would be easy to see where the pork would be hidden.

"If the budget of a certain department gets inflated, that's where they put the pork," Lacson said.

He said the pork barrel of the House would just be hidden in various departments.

"It's like Tabatsoy (fat person), who told his friend that he would no longer eat pork," he said. "But when he's alone, he partakes of pork."

For his part, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said he would support the House proposal provided it reduced the budget correspondingly.

"If they will really abolish this (pork barrel), then they should reduce the budget commensurately," Enrile told reporters.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II said he would await with "great and keen interest" the budget to be submitted by the House to the Senate.

Roxas said the House bid to adopt a line item budgeting may provide transparency in the budget but he noted this was impractical.

He said line budgeting would be an "impractical exercise" because it would take a long time for Congress to approve the budget if it would take up each budget item line by line.

Thankful for gesture

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye could not ascertain whether the congressional pork barrel would be scrapped starting next year.

"That is something internal to the House. We have no way of confirming that, we just go by the newspaper reports," Bunye said at a press briefing.

He said the President was thankful for the gesture of the House to do away with its pork barrel.

"What we're saying now is this unilateral act on the part of the legislature is something that is welcome because this directly addresses our financial problems and we'd like to thank them for this very generous gesture," he said.

"But what we would like to keep reemphasizing is that this is not enough. We still have to pass the tax measures. We have lined up eight proposed tax revenues which hopefully would really address our financial problems," Bunye added.

He said the line item budgeting proposed by the House would be "a little more tedious" than the system of lump-sum appropriations, but Malacañang was leaving the decision to the House.

Bunye's deputy, Ricardo Saludo, expressed apprehension that line item budgeting could delay the approval of the budget.

"The congressmen who are pushing that are saying that they are ready to tackle the items one by one if line item budgeting will be resorted to. This means that for instance instead of one lump sum budget for irrigation, you will have to identify every irrigation project," he said. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Nat'l treasurer resigns

From page A1

bond auction committee, where she often rejected bank demands for high interest rates on treasury bills and bonds to limit the government's financial obligations.

Other officials had disagreed with her, the source said.

Figueroa doubted that her resignation would spook the financial markets. "I've done it before. It is fair to say they knew this was coming," she said.

The stock market was closed when news of Figueroa's resignation broke. Since the report had been circulating for some time, it was unlikely to end a nine-day stock rally, analysts said.

Still, some traders said news of Figueroa's resignation could hurt the peso and Philippine sovereign bonds as this would add to the uncertainty over the country's financial situation.

FIGUEROA: Back to private sector

Ms Arroyo has launched a tough cost-cutting campaign, suspending all unnecessary trips by government officials, banning gift-giving and celebrations and slashing the use of many government resources.

Ms Arroyo, who has proposed new taxes to ease the deficit, urged cooperation on Monday to prevent a crisis.

"This is a moment of sacrifice," she said in a statement. "Our strategy is to avert a larger financial crisis down the road, sustain economic growth and protect the welfare of the most marginal sectors."

Ms Arroyo, a Georgetown University-educated economist, rattled financial markets last month by saying the country was in the middle of a fiscal crisis. Her financial advisers scrambled to reassure investors that the Philippines was still able to service its debt amounting to more than P5.4 trillion and manage the budget deficit estimated to hit P197.8 billion this year. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and AP*

Swift approval of wage bills vowed

By Carlito Pablo

WORKERS have something good to look forward to in these difficult times.

Rep. Roseller Barinaga (NPC, Zamboanga del Norte), who chairs the House committee on labor, yesterday gave assurances of the quick passage of pending bills providing for a P125 legislated daily pay increase for private workers.

Barinaga made the assurance as he noted that the purchasing power of the peso had fallen to only 55 centavos since 1994.

"The P125 daily increase will in fact simply restore the purchasing power of workers back to 1994 levels," he said. "Forty-four centavos have been eaten away from the peso's value through the years."

Barinaga, principal author of House Bill No. 345 providing for the wage increase, said the committee would take only two meetings to finalize a consolidated bill before reporting it out for approval by the plenary.

Earlier, Representatives Crispin Beltran and Rafael Mariano, both of the party-list Anakpawis, filed House Bill No. 1063 calling for an across-the-board pay hike of P125 a day.

There has been no legislated wage increase since 1989 following the creation of the regional tripartite wage boards.

These boards, composed of representatives from the labor department, workers and employers, are tasked with determining wage adjustments in their respective regions.

Rep. Renato Magtubo (Partido ng Manggagawa) said that the committee on labor would start hearings on the bills seeking wage increases this week.

"We will defend it on the floor and convince the entire House that a wage increase is justified and reasonable in view of the hard times," Magtubo said.

Malacañang had earlier said it wanted a wage freeze as increases in salaries would dampen business activity and lead to closures.

In a statement, Beltran said a wage increase was "already a matter of survival for workers."

"This is especially urgent amidst these endless rounds of oil price increases and its inevitable effect in raising the cost of basic goods and services in the country," Beltran said.

Barinaga will participate in a "solidarity lunch" scheduled for today with labor union representatives in the House.

The lunch will consist of rice, dried fish and salted eggs, which Beltran said were the usual fare of workers due to their small incomes.

Newsman's suspected killer yields

From page A1

tiation. He was brought before Philippine National Police Director General Edgardo Aglipay, who then presented him to media.

Wapile, in a collared shirt and denim pants, was wearing sunglasses when he appeared before reporters, escorted by PNP Western Mindanao commander Chief Supt. Servando Hizon and outgoing Criminal Investigation and Detection Group Director Arturo Lomibao.

Aglipay ordered the suspect to remove his glasses, and the ex-policeman did.

Wapile's guards whisked him away before reporters could ask questions.

Wapile was dismissed from the service on Jan. 8, 2003 after witnesses pointed to him as the man who allegedly shot Damalerio in May 2002.

Long line of slain journalists

An anchor for RPN 9-dxKP based in Pagadian, Damalerio was also managing editor of Zamboanga Scribe. He was one of at least 55 journalists murdered in the country since democracy was restored in 1986 with the overthrow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Wapile was initially arrested last year but escaped after a few weeks. He had since been the object of a police manhunt.

Police are investigating a political angle in the murder. Other suspects are also still being hunted.

Gemma Wapile, who learned about the surrender from the INQUIRER, said she was having mixed feelings of happiness and anxiety.

The fear for her life and the safety of her family will remain until the mastermind is captured, Gemma said.

Another witness in hiding

"I could not exactly explain what I am feeling right now," she said.

Another witness, Edgar Ongue, remains in hiding.

Hizon said Wapile's surrender came about with the help of police regional intelligence chief Senior Supt. Angelito Casimiro and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) regional director Supt. Gregorio Pimentel.

"The operation temporarily stopped last May because of the election," Hizon said. "After President Macapagal-Arroyo was proclaimed, we resumed the search."

"Luckily, we got the right connection and contact," Hizon said, referring to other civilian officials who helped convince Wapile to surrender.

Hizon named the other officials as Misamis Occidental police chief Supt. Lindel Desquitado, Ozamiz City Mayor Reynaldo Parohinog, Clarin town Mayor David Navarro and the uncle of the suspect identified only as Gener.

He crossed powerful people

The uncle, according to Hizon, served as chief negotiator.

Wapile's wife Loumabel also cooperated with the police, Hizon added.

Damalerio was shot by two men about 300 meters away from the police headquarters.

The killing occurred just as publishers and editors of community-based newspapers nationwide were taking part in a forum in Manila on media's role in politics and global terrorism.

In his opinion column titled "Markang X" and in his radio commentaries, Damalerio crossed powerful people in the community.

Politicians and police

Among them were former Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles, his wife Zamboanga del Sur Gov. Aurora Cerilles, former Pagadian City Mayor Warlito Pulmones and former Vice Mayor Henrieto Dogon, whom Damalerio accused of graft.

The graft case stemmed from the city's purchase of six Chariot vehicles estimated at P6 million.

Damalerio also criticized two police officials for their supposed failure to curb the trade in illegal drugs, the "video karera" and illegal numbers games, and the spate of killings and car thefts in Pagadian and Zamboanga del Sur.

During his 5-6:30 p.m. radio program, Radyo Ronda, Damalerio regularly lambasted local officials and some police officers.

Once, he obtained a purported copy of Governor Cerilles' letter addressed to San Pablo Mayor Rolando Dolauta allegedly urging the latter to file a petition opposing the proposed construction of an extension regional hospital in San Miguel town.

The project was funded by the pork barrel of a political rival of the governor.

A birthday gift

Governor Cerilles denied writing the supposed letter to Dolauta.

Aglipay, who celebrated his 56th birthday yesterday, had promised to solve all murder cases involving journalists and judges in the country and to arrest all suspects involved in these cases.

"This is a good birthday gift for me," Aglipay joked to the reporters in Filipino. "Since I took over, we have arrested suspects in the killings of two journalists and two judges."

Police recently also arrested suspects in the killings of radio reporter Arnel Manalo and Judge Voltaire Rosales of Batangas.

The Mindanao Institute of Journalism had denounced Damalerio's killing as "an act which can only be perpetrated by cowards and by persons possessing twisted value systems."

"While Edgar may not be a perfect model of a journalist, his courage in exposing corruption and malpractice, among others, is unequalled and is worthy of emulation," the institute said.

3rd JOINT INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON DISABILITY AND BIOPHILIA REHABILITATION ACADEMY

The Pearl, Manila Hotel • September 16-18, 2004

Scientific Programme

DAY 1	September 16, Thursday
Morning	
7.00- 10.00	Registration / Exhibits / Opening Ceremonies
Session I	
10:00-10:30	Confronting the Problems of Osteoporosis and Osteoarthritis Betty Dy-Mancao, MD
10:30-11:00	Rehabilitation of Elderly Persons with Disabilities Antonio O. Periquet, MD
11:00-11:45	What is the Takizawa Method of Rehabilitation? Shigeo Takizawa, Japan
12:00- 2:00	Lunch Symposium Management of Lipid Disorder / MERCK Speaker – Eugene Reyes, MD
Afternoon	
Session II	
2.00- 2.30	Role of Orthotics in Orthopedic Rehabilitation Ra[illegible] Cembrano, MD
2:30- 3.00	Assistive Technology: Tools for Independence Celia Lamkin, MD
3:00- 3;30	Special Education Policy on Discrimination of Women with Disabilities in Pakistan Dr Khurram Shahid Malik, Pakistan
3:50- 5:00	Workshop on Assistive Technology Facilitator: Celia Lamkin, MD, CNMI
DAY 2	September 17, Friday
Morning	
9 00- 9 50	Keynote Address Ms. Venus M. Ilagan, *Chairperson*, Disabled Peoples International (DPI) & International Disability Alliance (IDA)
Session III	
10 00-10 40	Assistive Technology Assessment Process in Special Education & Medical Practice Celia Lamkin, MD, Northern Marianas College, CNMI
10 40-11 20	Latest Assistive Technology Devices for Students with Disabilities Jerry McVicar, Assistive Technology Specialist
12:00- 2:00	Lunch Symposium Role of ARB in Heart Failure / BOIE-TAKEDA *Speaker* – Danilo Kuizon, MD
Afternoon	
Session IV	
2 10- 2 40	New Perspectives in the Rehabilitation of Stroke Patients Consuelo Suarez, MD
2:40- 3:10	Botulinum Toxin in the Management of Spasticity Melissa Z. Mercado, MD
3:10- 3:40	Repetitive Strain Injury and Carpal Tunnel Syndrome Lyde A. Magpant[illegible], MD
4 00- 6 00	Workshop: Case Studies of Different Types of Disabilities
6:00- 8:30	Fellowship Dinner – Speakers, Organizing Committee and foreign delegates
DAY 3	September 18, Saturday
Morning	
Session V	
8.00- 8.20	Modern Sports to Contemporary Sports Kazuei Takahashi, Professor Niigata University of Health and Welfare
8.25- 8.45	An Examination by Randomized Control Test of the Effectiveness of Exercise Therapy Mitsuyo Makita, MA., Prof. Niigata University of Health and Welfare
8:50- 9:10	Development of Motivative Exercise and Lifting Aid Dual Hajime Takada, PhD. Yokohama National University
10.15-10.45	Countermeasures to Aging Society in Japan Hiroshi Nagasawa [illegible], P.T., Professor Kanagawa Univer[illegible] Japan
10:50-11:30	Fall in Outpatients Suffering from Rheumatic Diseases Ichiro Watanabe, MD Hokkaido University
11:40- 1:40	Lunch Symposium – Vascular Disease with Risk of Thrombosis / CORBRIDGE GROUP, PHIL. INC. *Speaker* – Jorge A. Sison, MD
Afternoon	
Session VI	
1 40- 2 20	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands System of Technology Thomas J. Camacho US Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands
2:25- 2:55	How to Prevent Decubitus Ulcers in Japan Yoshiko Morita, MD Kawasaki Medical Hospital
3.00- 3:40	Control System for the Takizawa Method of Rehabilitation and Muscle Power Strength Training Shigeo Takizawa, Japan
3:45	Closing Remarks Hiroshi Nagasawa, PhD Chairman of the 3rd International Biophilia Rehabilitation Conference

Message

My Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of Japan Biophilia Rehabilitation Academy, I am pleased to announce to my Philippine friends-

European countries and Japan try to cope with aging society. We seek every possible means on how we should provide better life for the aging society. In order to establish a well-aging society and make up a community rehabilitation network we started a standing committee in 1993, as a society for the socio-medical rehabilitation of the 21st century. And we were able to have a first academic meeting of the Biophilia Rehabilitation Society in 1995. Last year we had the 2nd International Academic Meeting with friends of CANADA. We were able to achieve the result from not only the domain of medicine but also psychology sociology, economics, and managed field.

It is our great pleasure to hold the associated session for rehabilitation in the problem of based on the community. We are looking forward to a fruitful meeting, in the forthcoming 3rd JOINT INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON DISABILITY AND BIOPHILIA REHABILITATION CONFERENCE in Manila, Philippines.

My best wishes and regards

HIROSHI NAGASAWA, PT, PhD
Chairman of the 3rd International Biophilia Rehabilitation Conference (Japan)
Vice-President of the Biophilia Rehabilitation Academy
Professor Kanagawa University of Human Services

Let me express my warm welcome and greetings to everyone in this 3rd Joint International Congress on Disability and Biophilia Rehabilitation Academy. It is our great honor and privilege to host this prestigious annual scientific event. I consider this a rare opportunity for us here in the Philippines to listen to the experts from here and abroad as they present a wide range of topics and issues on disability management and rehabilitation for the young and old which I am certain would surely stimulate greater interest in this conference.

The holding of this meeting with its theme "From Care Reliance to Independence" underscores our perspectives to cater to the growing needs of our patients with the ultimate goal of improving the delivery of quality yet affordable specialty rehabilitation care.

Our organizing committee together with the Biophilia executive director Shigeo Takizawa and Prof. Hiroshi Nagasawa, vice-president and chairman of the Japanese organizing committee have prepared an array of very interesting and updated topics on rehabilitation, assistive technology, orthopedics, stroke, community-based rehabilitation, motion analysis, computer and kinetics, contemporary sports, adaptive strategies, special education, quality of life and quality of care, and many other interesting topics. Our organizing committee, assisted by Dr. Celia Lamkin, coordinator for scientific sessions, we have prepared a comprehensive format consisting of plenary lectures, simultaneous conferences and interactive sessions.

Of course, you will never miss the fun and camaraderie and the warm hospitality that is truly traditional Filipino. In behalf of our organizing committee for the Philippines and our international counterpart, we look forward to a successful and productive congress.

JORGE A. SISON, MD
Chairman,
Organizing Committee for the Philippines

Courtesy of: Corbridge Group Philippines Inc.

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

15 more killed in new violence in Iraq

FALLUJAH, Iraq—At least 15 people were killed as US jets spearheaded yet another assault on alleged al-Qaida fighters in Fallujah while Iraq's prime minister warned that key elections may be delayed in areas of unrest.

Meanwhile, Italy's Foreign Minister Franco Frattini was due in the Middle East on an 11th-hour mission to win the release of two kidnapped Italian women after militants purportedly demanded Rome withdraw its troops from Iraq within 24 hours.

In the Sunni Muslim insurgent hotspot of Fallujah, US troops launched air strikes on aides of suspected al-Qaida operative Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi, the most wanted man in Iraq who is accused of masterminding some of the deadliest attacks in the 18-month-old insurgency.

Multinational forces conducted a "successful precision strike on a confirmed Abu Musab al-Zarqawi terrorist meeting site in Fallujah," the US military said. "Intelligence reports indicated that only Zarqawi operatives and associates were at the meeting location at the time of the strike."

Zarqawi's group claimed responsibility for a string of missile attacks and suicide bombings on Sunday, a bloody day which saw 45 people killed and scores more wounded across the country.

But an undertaker and angry local residents ridiculed the US claims that the victims were all Zarqawi's aides.

"So far we received 15 bodies. Among them is an ambulance driver and two nurses, plus five wounded who were in the ambulance when it was bombed," said undertaker Falah Abdullah.

Three pick-up vehicles trucked the bodies to the cemetery, where a crowd of furious grief-stricken relatives washed and buried their loved ones, killed in the pre-dawn and early morning attacks, an AFP correspondent said.

Four of the dead were killed after a US warplane struck a civilian car driving along a new motorway west of Fallujah, witnesses said.

Hamid Abbas, 32, said his windscreen smashed when the jet dropped its missile on the car in front.

"All of a sudden I heard a powerful explosion. A few seconds later, I saw the car on fire and charred bodies inside. People on the street were in a state of panic," he said.

Medics said at least 20 people were wounded when US artillery and tanks pounded northern Fallujah and a warplane flattened a house and partially destroyed two others.

"It was a simple family living in a simple house. It was completely destroyed but thank God they were only wounded," said Omar Suleiman, 27.

Uday al-Mashadani, 26, said families started fleeing northern Fallujah after the shelling began. Heavy sniper fire and sporadic shelling petered out by late morning as US troops urged fighters to surrender via loudspeaker.

US jets have relentlessly attacked the extremist Sunni Muslim militant stronghold since seven marines were killed in a car bombing last Monday.

"They target peaceful families every day and every night. Then they say its Zarqawi, weapons of mass destruction or terrorists they are after. Stop this destruction. Stop bombing peaceful civilians," said Sheikh Hamid Jaddoua. *AFP*

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PRINCE HARRY TURNS 20—Britain's Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales (center) with his two sons Prince Harry (left) and Prince William. The photograph has been made available to mark Prince Harry's 20th birthday on Sept. 15. AP

Chechens shoot down Russian chopper, kill 2

MOSCOW—Russian officials said a military helicopter that crashed in the war-wracked region of Chechnya, killing two crew members, was shot down by rebel fighters, a Russian news agency said Monday.

The Mi-24 helicopter was the second aircraft to be downed by fighters in the past week.

Citing an unnamed military source, the Interfax news agency reported that fighters on Sunday had targeted the helicopter with a rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire near the village of Alkhan-Kala, southwest of the Chechen capital, Grozny. The craft's two crew members were killed.

Earlier, the Kavkaz Center website, which is linked to Chechen rebels, posted a claim of responsibility for the helicopter's downing. A statement attributed to a rebel official identified as Madzhilsul Shura said that fighters used a Russian-made, shoulder-fired Igla (Needle) missile.

The Web statement also said Chechen rebels had downed another Russian military helicopter last week in the neighboring republic of Ingushetia. Russian officials had publicly blamed that crash on bad weather or pilot error, but an official in the Kremlin-backed administration in Chechnya said that the helicopter had been hit by ground fire. *AP*

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French appeals court to rule in retrial of Diana photographers

PARIS—A French appeals court will rule Tuesday whether three photographers who were part of the press pack that chased Princess Diana on the night of her death in Paris in 1997 took pictures that broke privacy laws.

The photographers—Fabrice Chassery, Jacques Langevin and Christian Martinez—were acquitted in November 2003, but state prosecutors and Mohamed Al-Fayed, the millionaire Egyptian father of Diana's companion Dodi, appealed.

They stand accused of violating French privacy laws by taking photos of Diana and Dodi as they left the Ritz hotel in Paris owned by Al-Fayed and then as the two lay in the wreckage of their Mercedes after their fatal car crash.

Langevin took two photos at the Ritz, Chassery took one at the hotel and one after the accident, and Martinez snapped two photos after the crash in a tunnel near the Seine.

At a June hearing before the Paris appeals court, state prosecutors asked that the photographers who took photos at the scene of the accident again be acquitted, invoking freedom of press laws.

But prosecutors left the door open for Langevin and Chassery to face punishment for their work at the Ritz, provided that the court determined that it indeed constituted a violation of privacy law.

"I did the job I was supposed to do," Langevin, the only one of the three photographers to attend the June hearing, told the court. "I don't feel I infringed on the intimacy of a private place."

Chassery, a freelance photographer at the time, Langevin, who worked for the Sygma/Corbis agency, and Martinez of the Angeli agency, were originally cleared of the charges against them when a court determined that they did not photograph any intimate moments and that the inside of a car did not constitute a private place.

Bernard Dartevelle, the attorney for Al-Fayed, argued that the Cour de Cassation—France's highest appeals court—had always held that the inside of a car was in fact considered a private place under French law.

Diana, 36, and Dodi Fayed, 42, died on the night of Aug. 31, 1997 shortly after leaving the Ritz. Their chauffeur Henri Paul, who also died, was found in the official French inquest to have been responsible for the crash because he was driving drunk at high speed.

The main investigation on the causes of the accident was closed in April 2002, putting an end to formal manslaughter inquiries brought against nine photographers and a press motorcyclist—including the three on trial here. *AFP*

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PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED FIRST SAVINGS BANK

1. The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will start its operations for the servicing of claims for insured deposits in the closed First Savings Bank (FSB) on Tuesday, September 14, 2004.

2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the FSB office/branch where they maintained their deposits, which have been designated as payoff sites (please refer to table below). PDIC representatives are stationed at these payoff sites to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors during office hours, Monday to Friday.

FSB Office	Payoff Site	Duration of Initial Operations
E. Rodriguez Ave. Head Office	268 E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd., New Manila, Quezon City	September 14 to 30, 2004
Cubao Branch	597 CRB Bldg., EDSA, Cubao, Quezon City	September 14 to 30, 2004
Divisoria Branch	514 Recto Ave., corner Sto. Cristo St., Tondo, Manila	September 14 to October 5, 2004
Plaza Rizal Branch	Plaza Rizal St., Plaza Aldea Tanay, Rizal	September 14 to October 5, 2004

After the said dates, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC Claims Counter, 6th Floor, SSS Bldg., Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino St., Makati City, from Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., or by mail addressed to:

The Officer-In-Charge, Claims Processing Department
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
2228 Chino Roces Avenue
1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims:

   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposits and/or Unused Checks and Latest Bank Statement.

   b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) with depositor's signature.

   Other documents maybe required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

4. Pursuant to the provision of R.A. 3591, as amended by R.A. 9302, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed First Savings Bank is on **September 7, 2006**. After **September 7, 2006**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – September 14, 2004)

AN INDONESIAN woman holds a flower during a prayer ceremony outside the Australian Embassy in Jakarta on Sept. 13. A powerful car bomb blast rocked the Australian Embassy in Jakarta last Thursday, killing nine people and wounding 182, most of them Indonesians. REUTERS

Police uncover key evidence in Jakarta blast investigation

JAKARTA—Police said Monday they have uncovered a key piece of evidence that will strengthen their case against two of Southeast Asia's most wanted terror suspects blamed for the lethal suicide bombing outside the Australian Embassy in Indonesia.

Investigators have found the chassis number of the van that carried the bomb, Australian Federal Police commissioner Mick Keelty said in Sydney. He said the discovery was a vital link to the bombers, who killed nine and injured more than 170 last Thursday.

Dozens of Australian federal police officers are involved in the Jakarta investigation, including several who also took part in the hunt for those responsible for the October 2002 Bali bombings, which killed 202 people.

"For people who remember the Bali bombings it was the chassis number that led to the early identification of those involved," Keelty said.

The top two suspects in last week's blast are Azahari bin Husin and Noordin Top, two Malaysians who authorities say are key members of Jemaah Islamiyah, an al-Qaida-linked group. Police are pursuing a massive manhunt for the pair and have warned of more suicide attacks.

Police hope the chassis number will help link the two men to the white delivery van used in the attack.

"Because these two are still at large, we have to be alert," Lt. Gen. Suyitno Landung said. "We're searching for them. We're asking people to report any suspicious activity in their neighborhoods."

Meanwhile, Australia plans to move its Jakarta Embassy because the current 10-year-old building is too small and its location on a busy road too dangerous, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said.

The Australian consulate in Bali also will be moved to a more secure area, an official said on condition of anonymity.

Security has been stepped up in Jakarta since Thursday, with embassies, shopping malls and hotels adding guards and barriers. Some roads have been closed.

"We have been stepping up security at buildings as well as strategic and vital places," President Megawati Sukarnoputri said after a Cabinet meeting. "I call on the people to cooperate with the government to maintain the security all over Indonesia."

Police officer Landung also said investigators were questioning a former owner of the truck used in the attack and taking DNA samples from relatives of at least three suspected suicide bombers to see if they match any body parts recovered at the scene.

At the bomb site, hundreds of police officers laid red roses, yellow sunflowers and white daises at the embassy gate. At least two of the seriously injured victims were police officers guarding the embassy.

"We came here to pay our respects to the victims of this bloody bombings," said retired Maj. Purnomo, clutching a bouquet of red roses. "This bombing is really touching our hearts."

Azahari, a British-trained engineer who taught bomb-making classes in Afghanistan and the Philippines, and Noordin, a university graduate and an explosives expert, have reportedly eluded capture at least five times in the past year. *AP*

No. 2 in Japan ruling party plans to resign

TOKYO—The popular number two official in Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party told Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Monday that he intends to resign, a move that could deal a blow to the administration.

After meeting Koizumi, 49-year-old Shinzo Abe told reporters he would quit as secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to take responsibility for its setback in elections in July.

He did not indicate when he intends to go.

"With regard to myself, I only told (Koizumi) what I have been saying all along," Abe told reporters.

Immediately after the July 11 upper house elections, in which the LDP won 49 of the 121 seats contested, a net loss of one seat, Abe said he would step down from his party post to take responsibility for the loss.

At their meeting Koizumi asked Abe for another meeting next week, after the premier returns from a trip to Brazil, Mexico and the US.

"We talked about the reform of the party and Mr. Abe himself," Koizumi told reporters.

"I only listened to him. I knew Mr. Abe's thoughts. I asked him to meet me again after I return from the trip," Koizumi said.

Abe, the grandson of former prime minister Nobusuke Kishi and son of former LDP secretary general Shintaro Abe, has proved popular with the public because of his tough line on North Korea over its abduction of Japanese citizens.

His departure might hurt the Koizumi government since the premier has already lost several key allies to scandals and election losses, analysts said.

Yasuo Fukuda, former chief Cabinet secretary and Koizumi's right-hand man, abruptly resigned in May over a scandal involving non-payment of pensions by ministers including himself.

In November Koizumi's key reform ally Taku Yamasaki, also former LDP secretary general, lost the seat in parliament he held for 30 years amid two lurid sex scandals. *AFP*

Japanese gadget converts flowers into audio speakers

TOKYO—The therapeutic power of flowers takes a technological twist with a Japanese gadget that turns them into audio speakers, making the petals and leaves tremble with good vibrations.

The machine called Ka-on, which means "flower sound" in Japanese, consists of a donut-shaped magnet and coil at the base of a vase that hooks up to a CD player, stereo or TV.

Place the flowers into the vase, turn on Ka-on and the magnet and coil relay the sound vibrations up the stems through the plant's water tubes.

Bring your ear near a flower, and hear the music emanate from the petals like a decorative earphone. Touch a leaf, and feel it shake as though in a quiet dance.

Later this month, you'll be able to carry on a telephone conversation with a flower with a planned speaker phone model.

Unlike regular speakers, which send sound in one direction, Ka-on shoots sound in all directions, filling an entire room with music in a more natural ambiance.

Masumi Gotoh, president of Let's Corp., a Nagoya-based telecommuncations-equipment company that developed and manufactures Ka-on, says the setup is ideal as gifts, flower table-arrangements at weddings, reception desks at hospitals, and decoration at restaurants.

Ka-on vases and amplifiers come in various sizes, ranging in price from ¥5,000 ($46) to ¥50,000 ($460). There's a version that works with potted plants, and a wireless LAN version will be available soon. *AP*

N. Korea: Blast was planned demolition

SEOUL—North Korea said a large explosion several days ago was a planned demolition for a hydroelectric project, the BBC reported Monday.

North Korean Foreign Minister Paek Nam-sun said the blast was intentional following a request for information from British Foreign Office minister Bill Rammell, who is visiting Pyongyang, the British Broadcasting Corp. said on its website.

South Korean and US officials said Sunday that a huge mushroom cloud that reportedly billowed up from North Korea on Thursday was not caused by a nuclear explosion, but that the cause was a mystery.

The South Korean news agency Yonhap reported that a mammoth explosion in North Korea produced a mushroom cloud more than three kilometers across. It said the blast was stronger than an April explosion that killed 160 people and injured an estimated 1,300 at a North Korean railway station when a train carrying oil and chemicals apparently hit power lines.

The huge size of the explosion on Thursday, the 56th anniversary of the foundation of North Korea, had raised speculation that it might be a nuclear test. US Secretary of State Colin Powell said there was no indication it was.

China's government, which has the closest relations with North Korea, had no immediate comment about the reported explosion.

The United States, Russia, Japan, China and the two Koreas have held talks on North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons development, and they agreed to hold another round of negotiations in Beijing this month. No date has been set.

The United States has pushed for North Korea to fully disclose all of its nuclear activities and allow outside monitoring before it receives any assistance. North Korea wants energy aid, lifting of economic sanctions and removal from its inclusion on Washington's list of state sponsors of terrorism. *AP*

IRANIANS walk on a bridge through the rubble of the Arg-e-Bam, 1,250 km southeast of Tehran Sept. 12. About nine months ago, centuries of history crumbled to dust in less than 20 seconds when an earthquake ripped down Iran's ancient citadel of Bam. REUTERS

Iran may have capability to build A-bomb in six months, says Israel

JERUSALEM—The head of Israeli military intelligence, Gen. Aharon Zeevi, claimed Monday that Iran could be in a position to develop nuclear weapons without outside help within six months.

As the UN's nuclear watchdog prepared to meet Monday to set a deadline for Iran to allay suspicions it is secretly making atomic weapons, Zeevi said time was rapidly running out for the international community to deal with Tehran.

"The next six months will determine if Iran will achieve in the spring of 2005 a non-conventional capability in the sphere of nuclear research and development," he said in remarks broadcast by public radio.

"In other words, it will no longer require external assistance to acquire an unconventional capability.

"This does not mean that it will have a bomb in 2005. It means that it will have all the means at its disposal to build a bomb."

Zeevi said that failure to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons would merely encourage other regimes to develop an atomic arsenal.

"If Iran is not stopped in time, there will be a nuclear domino effect in the region," he said.

Israel itself refuses to confirm it has a nuclear arsenal but is estimated to possess some 200 warheads.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government, which now views Iran as its number one enemy after the downfall of Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq, has been lobbying hard for greater pressure to be exerted on Tehran.

In a speech on Sunday, the Israeli army's chief of staff also urged the international community to deal with the emerging nuclear threat posed by Iran, adding that Israel would "have to reassess our position" if it failed to do so. *AFP*

Malaysia ruling party rejects Anwar

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's prime minister and ruling party are rejecting any return of Anwar Ibrahim to the ranks, barring the route to power to the former deputy prime minister despite his recent release from prison.

Anwar's possible return to the United Malays National Organization, which has produced every Malaysian prime minister since independence in 1957, has been the subject of intense speculation since the country's highest court freed him from prison Sept. 2.

But Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi—due to preside over his first party conference Sept. 21-25 since taking office nearly a year ago—made it clear over the weekend that Anwar won't be allowed back, though he'll leave the decision to Umno's supreme council, meeting Tuesday. *AP*

TOURISTS enjoy huge waves battering against Havana's seafront El Malecon, Sept. 12. Hurricane "Ivan" battered the tiny Cayman Islands with roaring winds and surging seas on Sunday and took aim at Cuba and the United States after cutting a deadly path through the Caribbean. REUTERS

Hurricane 'Ivan' heads for Cuba after leaving 65 dead in region

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands—Hurricane "Ivan" pummeled the Cayman Islands with fierce winds that ripped off roofs and floodwaters that swamped homes, then strengthened to an extremely dangerous Category 5 storm as it headed for western Cuba on Monday.

The hurricane, one of the strongest on record in the region, has killed at least 65 people across the Caribbean. About 1.3 million Cubans were evacuated from their homes, most taking refuge in the sturdier homes of relatives, co-workers or neighbors.

"It's as bad as it can possibly get," Justin Uzzell, 35, said Sunday by telephone from his fifth-floor refuge in an office building on Grand Cayman island. "It's a horizontal blizzard," he said. "The air is just foam."

Ivan's sustained winds weakened to 240 kph as they neared the wealthy British territory, then intensified late Sunday as the hurricane headed for western Cuba with sustained winds nearing 260 kph.

Officials had yet to assess damage, but Donnie Ebanks, deputy chair of the Cayman Islands' National Hurricane Committee, estimated between one-fourth and half of the 15,000 homes in Grand Cayman suffered some damage.

Ivan was projected to pass near or over Cuba's western end by Monday afternoon or evening. The US National Hurricane Center in Miami said the storm surge could reach 7.5 meters with dangerous, battering waves.

The Hurricane Center said ham radio operators on Grand Cayman reported people standing on roofs because the sea had surged up to 2.5 meters above normal tide levels.

While it was nearly a direct hit on Grand Cayman, the eye of the storm did not make landfall, passing instead over water just south of the island, said Rafael Mojica, a Hurricane Center meteorologist.

Still, emergency officials said residents from all parts of the island reported blown-off roofs and flooded homes as Ivan's shrieking winds and driving rain lashed Grand Cayman, the largest of three islands in the British territory of 45,000 people, a popular scuba diving destination and banking center.

"We know there is damage and it is severe," said Wes Emanuel of the Cayman Islands' Government Information Service. *AP*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Panasonic Flat TV FJ Series Kickoff

The send-off or the first delivery of the Panasonic Flat TV FJ Series held last August 16, 2004 at the Total Distribution Center (TDC) Grounds of MEPCO in Taytay, Rizal was a success.

It was spearheaded by the MEPCO and PPH management namely, K. Uehigashi, B. Sarangaya, H. Umeda, M. Tenmatay, Rodolfo Perez, S. Fukami, K. Nimura, Mr. Inukai, T. Fujii, and S. Saito.

There was a ceremonial blessing of the first batch of shipment which was followed by the ceremonial slicing of a huge cake with the FJ Series logo.

After the blessing of the shipment, the MEPCO and PPH Management proceeded with the various dealer send-off of the Panasonic Flat TV FJ Series. The MEPCO and PPH management had a ribbon-cutting ceremony in various Panasonic dealers. The selected dealers were Abenson, Inc. in Shangri-La Plaza, Western Marketing and SM Appliance in SM Megamall, Anson Emporium in Pasay Road and Automatic Center in Glorietta. Also a cause for celebration was the eye-catching display rack, which complements the TV units with its sophisticated lighted signage and vertical posts.

Panasonic FJ Display Rack in SM Appliance, SM Megamall

The Panasonic Flat TV FJ Series is Panasonic's latest top-of-the-line range of flat TVs.

Panasonic's highly futuristic Flat TVs have flat picture tubes that project natural and accurate images and text from corner to corner, free of the warping and distortion. Glare, and reflection are also quite minimal so images are clean and free from distraction.

Beyond being a Flat TV, the new Panasonic Flat TV FJ Series has the following incredibly superb features:

MTS Stereo, or Multi-Television Sound, can get stereo signals from both broadcast and AV source.

5-Band Equalizer. This sound feature gives you a choice of three preset sound settings (Music/News/Cinema) to best match the kind of program you are watching.

Virtual Hyper Bass (VHB) Circuit– provides rich, deep bass sound, as it uses the advanced Psychoacoustic Bass Boost technology. It captures the frequencies too low for TV speakers to reproduce, and magnifies those frequencies.

Component Video (DVD) Input – terminals which allow direct input of signals from DVD discs in their original format. This provides exquisite picture quality with extremely accurate color reproduction.

While the Panasonic Flat FJ Series has undeniably advanced features, it also boasts of an elegant design. The silver frame has a slimmer side profile than previous models. The dark screen bezel helps deepen the images and make the black blacker, and whites whiter.

(L-R) Mr. Sammy Lim, Mia Chua, Koji Uehigashi, Irene Chua, Rodolfo Perez, Erick Lim at the Automatic Center, Glorietta, Makati City

Overall, each model in the FJ Series has a flowing yet balanced look that adds intelligence to any home decor. The new Panasonic FJ Series is now available at all selected authorized Panasonic dealers in Metro Manila.

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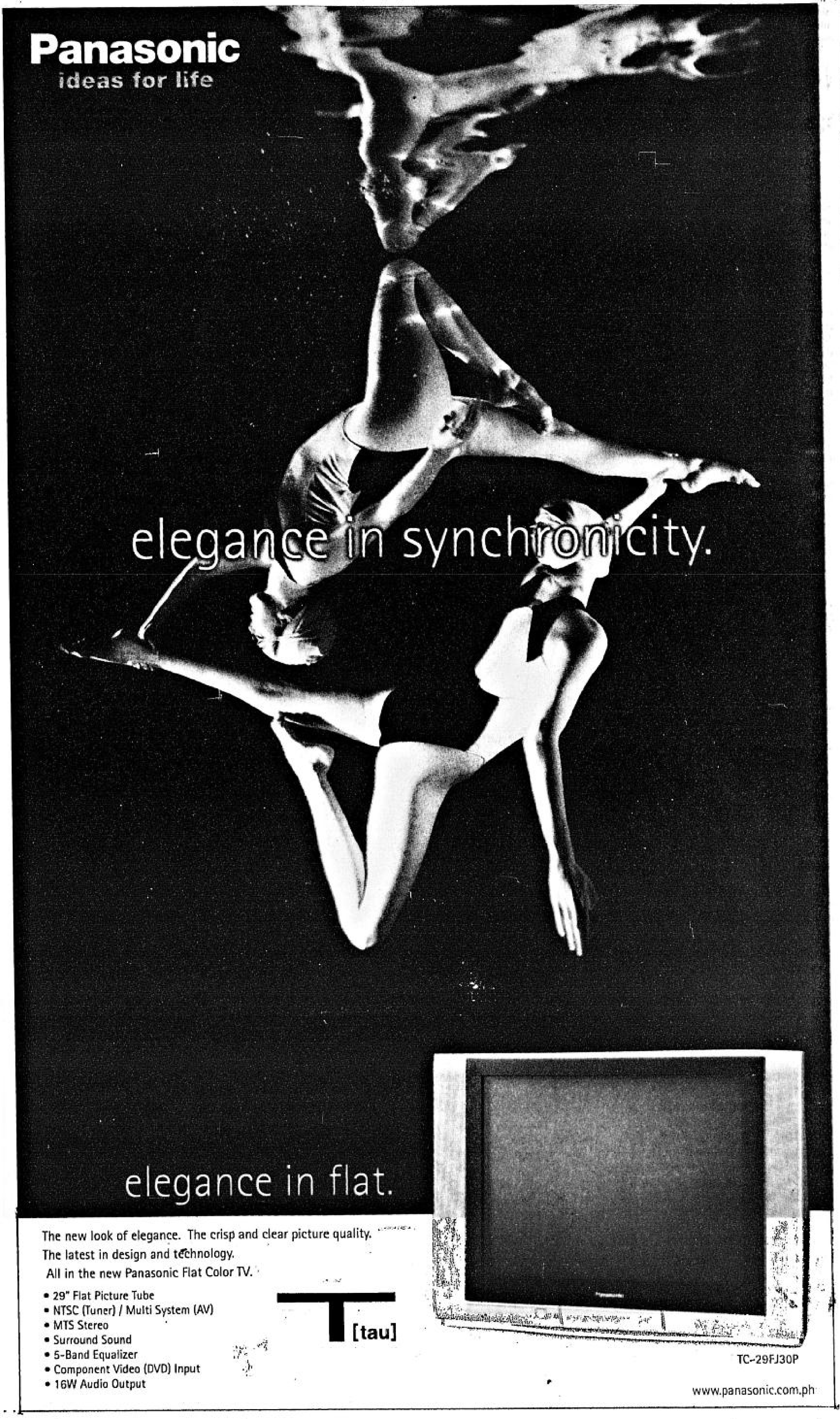
Ms. Karen Ngo of Western Marketing, SM Megamall branch & PPH President, Mr. Rodolfo G. Perez cut the ribbon.



The new look of elegance. The crisp and clear picture quality.
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- MTS Stereo
- Surround Sound
- 5-Band Equalizer
- Component Video (DVD) Input
- 16W Audio Output

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OPINION

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All for show?

EDITORIALS

NORMALLY the announcement of House leaders that they have agreed to abolish the pork barrel starting with the proposed 2005 national budget would have been greeted with applause and cheers. But it is a measure of the low esteem in which the House as a body is being held that its announcement was met with jeers and sneers.

One of the critics is not an opposition leader who would automatically issue critical remarks just to get media exposure. He is a high-ranking Senate leader who should know whereof he speaks because he has had many years of experience in whipping into final form the annual general appropriations bill.

The Senate official said that House members were merely changing the pork barrel from a lump-sum appropriation to specific items in the budget. In other words, instead of being lumped together in one large barrel, the pork will be inserted in small chunks all over the budget bill. A similar observation was made by Gov. Ben Evardone of Eastern Samar who said that the pork barrel funds might be preserved through "congressional insertions" in the budget.

It has been said that the abolition of the pork barrel would not have much effect in the solution of the fiscal crisis that the government is facing. Yes, the abolition of the pork barrel would mean savings of only P20 billion, about one-tenth of this year's projected budget deficit of more than P200 billion, but it would be a loud political and moral statement. It would set an example in self-imposed austerity and might set off a snowball effect in the rest of the government.

If the House members finally decide to abolish the pork barrel, they would be taking the high moral ground from which they can demand that executive officials, beginning with the President, also do away with the pork barrel in their own budgetary allocations. The congressmen can demand that officials of government-owned and controlled corporations, like the notorious National Power Corp., reduce their astronomical salaries and scrap their huge allowances, perks and privileges. They can also sound a general call for austerity throughout the government bureaucracy.

But first, as many grizzled editors always advise young reporters who want to improve their copy, "Show, don't tell." Honorable congressmen: Show us, in black and white in the final budget bill, that you have honestly deleted your pork barrel from the budget and then we'll believe you and applaud you.

True colors

AT FIRST, it appeared that Rep. Antonio Diaz of Zambales was resigning for a high-minded reason: he said it was no longer an honor to serve as a member of Congress. But later, the man who was once called "the Furusato congressman" showed his true colors. He said in a radio interview that he was resigning because he was not named one of the House deputy speakers and because he had not obtained his pork barrel funds.

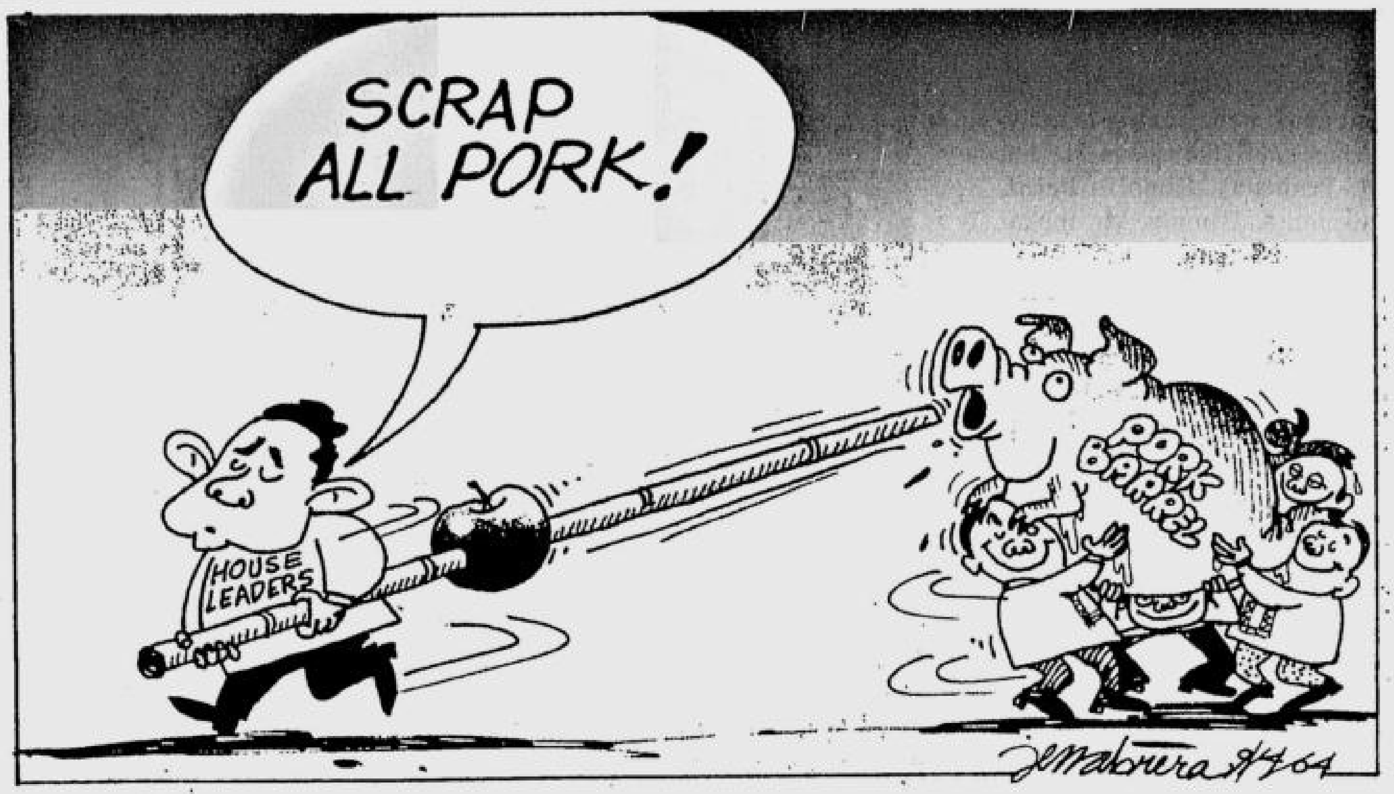
Diaz's announced resignation has raised some questions. One is, can an elected congressman simply resign by submitting a letter of resignation to House officials? If he has to resign at all, should he not submit his resignation to the people in his congressional district who elected him?

Another question is whether he may be held criminally liable for refusing to discharge an elective office without a legal motive. Because, if a congressman would be allowed to resign just on a whim or caprice, then theoretically, all congressmen can abandon their posts without suffering any punishment or penalty. (Theoretically, we said, because, after clawing his way to a "very enriching office," a congressman would be a fool, indeed, to just resign and give up a source of power, privilege and pelf.)

We've viewed Diaz's supposed resignation with suspicion from the very beginning because of his past actions in the House. In 1993, the Senate blue ribbon committee found that Diaz engineered the construction of a P216-million dike in his hometown of San Marcelino in such a way that his mansion would be protected by a one-half-meter thick concrete armor. Later, he was found to have eaten—if his expense accounts were to be believed—307 times at the expensive Furusato restaurant over a four-month period, spending tens of thousands of pesos of the people's money for the purpose.

Now, this "show-piece" resignation. If the people of his district have the power to accept his resignation, we strongly urge them to do so.

(Congressman Diaz withdrew his resignation last night. It was too late to change the editorial.—Ed.)



Calibrated refurbishing

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

FERDINAND Marcos' 87th birthday anniversary ceremonies this year would highlight "his military career and war exploits," INQUIRER correspondent Cristina Arzadon reports from Laoag City.

"He was a soldier who stood up for his country, and in the process got 27 medals," a family spokesman said. "That's history. It cannot be changed, amended or erased."

Did he? And how many medals are there, really? "The Philippine government says he won 32 medals for heroism in World War II, including several from the US Army," The New York Times reported on Jan. 24, 1986. Then, where did the other five go, if it is 27, as the family spokesman claims today? Is anybody rewriting history?

A 10-second burst of the Google search engine today will turn up 1,540 entries on some of those supposed battle decorations. Loyalists swear those were not "medals by affidavits," wrung from the military in exchange for budget support in Congress.

Others disagree. In 1982, the late Jose Burgos' paper We Forum questioned Marcos' war record. It was promptly padlocked. Burgos, the late Soc Rodrigo, Armando Malay and others were jailed.

In the "New Society's" waning days, the ex-guerrilla and martial law exile Boni Gillego leaked US War Department records to newspapers: from the Philippine News in San Francisco to the Mercury News in San Jose, California.

Prof. Alfred McCoy who started research on his book "Closer Than Brothers" in July 1985 was the main conduit to the major US papers.

"I was on sabbatical (from University of New South Wales in Sydney) at the US National Archives," he wrote. "That was when I came across US Army records that discredited President Ferdinand Marcos' claims to heroism in World War II."

Six months later, Marcos was running in a desperate snap election against Corazon Aquino, widow of the assassinated opposition senator. His campaign hammered on his "war exploits."

With the help of reporter Seymour Hersh, McCoy wrote: "I delivered these documents to The New York Times. Stories of Marcos' 'fraudulent' war record soon made headlines on both sides of the Pacific."

The US National Archives "confirmed the authenticity" of the papers provided by McCoy, New York Times' Jeff Gerth and Joel Brinkley wrote. Among the findings:

"The issue of his medals is not addressed in the army records."

"At no time did the Army recognize that any unit designating itself as Maharlika ever existed as a guerrilla force in the years of Japanese occupation from 1942 to 1945."

In his reports, Marcos put the number of his guerrillas, named Maharlika, from 800 to 8,200 men. After the war, the US recognized claims of 111 men for services after the US invasion of Luzon.

Services given by "Marcos and 23 others" to the 1st Cavalry Division, in the spring of 1945, "were of limited military value." Six officers and 18 of those recognized helped "guard the regimental supply dump and performed warehousing details."

In 1948, the Army ruled against Maharlika claims for recognition. The "immensity of Mr. Marcos' claim that Maharlika served the entire province of Luzon was absurd," wrote the last reviewing officer, Capt. Elbert Curtis. "The last entry in the Maharlika file is affirmation of the rejection."

In the Philippines, it was Dr. Edilberto de Jesus (until recently education secretary) "who persuaded Jimmy Ongpin, publisher of the Manila weekly, Veritas, to risk Marcos' anger." The weekly published the documents here.

That took guts. Official papers indicate that "the US Army grew suspicious immediately" of the Maharlika claims.

In the first days of December 1944, Marcos contended, he had been "in a northern province on an intelligence mission." The US invasion of Luzon cut him off from Maharlika headquarters.

The American invasion of Luzon, in fact, did not begin until a month later, the review pointed out. "It could not have influenced his abandoning his outfit."

Contrary to Marcos' claim, US investigators found that "Maharlika had not actually been in the field fighting the Japanese...It had no records and was not controlled adequately due to desertions...It had not contributed materially to the eventual defeat of the enemy."

This account is not, to paraphrase Columbia University's historian Carlo Gluck, "looking for an open wound." Rather, this recall is necessary. Closure of this tragic chapter in our national life is needed because we face a calibrated campaign to refurbish 14 years of dictatorial rule. That ranges from denial ("Martial law was the most democratic period in our history," says Imelda) to propaganda and even legislation.

House Bill 5147, filed by Rep. Roquito Ablan during the last Congress, sought to declare Sept. 11 as Ferdinand Marcos Day and a non-working holiday for Ilocos Norte.

There's a well-funded campaign to mass produce books that rewrite history. "The Five Per Cent Revolution," for example, denigrates People Power. "This is Ninoy" regurgitates smears against the late Sen. Benigno Aquino as a crypto communist. "Hubris" sums up Imelda's claim of persecution

But the truth must be reiterated because values violated need to be reaffirmed. Only truth ensures that this tragedy will never happen again, as former Sen. Jose Diokno wrote from his Fort Bonifacio prison cell.

"Truth has no special time of its own, " Dr. Albert Schweitzer once said. "Its hour is now—always."

* * *

(E-mail : juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

'Social volcano'

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER again that in the last few years before martial law, many politicians were warning about the "social volcano." Much of it was rhetoric—the times called for strident language and reformist, if not revolutionary, posturing. This was a time of great ferment. Activism was sweeping the campuses like "a prairie fire," to use a phrase much favored by the activists.

But this was also a time of great uncertainty. The elections of 1969, the one that saw Ferdinand Marcos reelected (the first time a postwar Filipino president had gotten so) had depleted the national coffers and sent the peso on a tailspin. Three months after the elections, the peso devalued almost by half, from P2 to one dollar to close to P4 to a dollar. Prices zoomed, including those of oil, which precipitated rallies, some of them violent ones. The ensuing hardships highlighted the gap between rich and poor, a condition politicians described as a simmering social volcano about to explode.

"Here is a land," Ninoy Aquino said, "in which a few are spectacularly rich while the masses remain abjectly poor. Gleaming suburbia clashes with the squalor of the slums.... Here is a land of privilege and rank, a republic dedicated to equality but mired in an archaic system of caste."

Everyone predicted a revolution was in the offing. The masses could not take more of this, opposition politicians and radicals alike warned. The magma was building up, the volcano would soon explode.

But there were others who foresaw a different turn of events. Poverty and uncertainty, they said, did not necessarily lead to revolution, they often led to iron-fisted rule. All over Southeast Asia, they said, authoritarianism had become the norm. It was just a question of time before the idea took root in this country, too. It may not be long, they warned, before the man on horseback came to pick up the crown from the mud with the point of his sword.

On Sept. 21, 1972, he did. Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law.

I remember these things not just because the 32nd anniversary of martial law is just a week away but because I have a powerful feeling of déjà vu. There's an uncanny parallel between then and now.

This may not be a time of great ferment, but this is a time of great uncertainty, anxiety, if not activism, sweeping through the length and breadth of the country like a prairie fire. Though you never know about the activism, it can always blow into a prairie fire at a moment's notice. I recall that it grew to epic proportions more than three decades ago only after the elections of 1969, specifically two months later, in January 1970 (elections then were held in November), when the First Quarter Storm first howled. Uncertain times have a way of fanning dissent, or gathering angry voices into a chorus.

But as it was then, this is a time of great hardship coming off elections. As it was then, this is a time when the public coffers have been depleted by a President who was determined, by hook or by crook, by Cebu and by Comelec, to win a second term. As it was then, this is a time of skyrocketing prices, notably those of oil, which have sparked earnest protests, if not violent rallies. As it was then, this is a time at least of threatened currency devaluation, if not an actual one, though the actual one may not be very far behind. More so than then, this is a time of gloom and anxiety, with economists warning of an oncoming economic collapse as a result of a gaping budget deficit.

And as it was then, this is a time when the public cannot trust its government to pluck it out of the crisis, believing its government to be the very source of the crisis. GMA is nearly exactly in the same position Marcos was before martial law: She lacks credibility and is hugely unpopular. Uncannily she is burdened as well by a spouse who puts a face on profligacy. She has Mike Arroyo to Marcos' Imelda, and Imelda was so much prettier. Indeed, unlike Marcos who was believed to have won the elections even if he used inordinate amounts of force and farce, GMA is thought by 55 percent of Filipinos not to have won the elections at all.

That is heady brew. The tempting thing is to imagine that this will midwife a revolt as the masses reach their threshold of tolerance for pain. That is possible. Even now you hear cries and whispers from various sectors, from the aggrieved candidates in the last elections as well as from the NGOs who were not compromised with the Peace Bonds, about the possibility of ousting the government if things get out of hand.

But there is another possibility. Which is that as the crisis deepens, GMA will be tempted to take the option of mounting iron-fisted rule. It need not take the form of an outright declaration of martial law, though that can't be entirely dismissed. It could always take the form of a de facto martial law, using the instruments of martial law. I remember that when I suggested this some months ago, several GMA supporters wrote me angrily to say GMA was not Marcos.

But why so? The same scale of ambition is there, the same recklessness, the same capacity to lie, cheat and steal. More to the point, we do not lack for proof of her capacity to do so: that was what her "war against terror" was all about. It was disguised martial law. And desperate times are always an engraved invitation to curtailing rights. As it is, we do not lack for fools, in the form of fawning supporters, who have been asking her to call for a state of emergency to deal with a crisis of her own making.

There is another George, apart from Bush, named Santayana, whose wise counsel has been repeated to triteness but which remains apt for us:

Those who do not heed their history are bound to repeat it.

Executive branch also affected by pork cuts

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE PROPOSAL of the various political party leaders in the House, led by Speaker Jose de Venecia, to abolish their pork barrel funds in the 2005 national budget, amounting to P65,000 per member, has sparked animated comments, to say the least. I like to view the House move as a symbol of unity in adversity. Just three months ago, the same leaders were wrangling bitterly over the canvassing procedure for the two highest posts in the land; today they're pretty united. It's also a heartening positive response to the citizens' clamor to scrap these funds, perceived as the source not just of power but also of corruption. I hope this move will no longer be derailed.

* * *

The proposal to abolish the pork barrel is also meeting a lot of cynicism from some sectors, which shouldn't surprise anyone. The thing is to be resolute and stout-hearted about it, and to realize that this is the people's wish. One criticism from the Senate, as bannered by the INQUIRER yesterday, is that contrary to the House members' avowal, their pork items have not disappeared from the budget—it's still there, except that the system has been revised. As a senator told me, if a House member wants to put a project in the budget, who will question that? There's also the opinion that removing the pork of the entire Congress, amounting to P20 billion, won't really make a dent on the P907-billion budget deficit; in fact, scrapping it would affect the countryside development. There's also fear among some legislators that doing so would put them at the mercy of Malacañang, which would now be the sole dispenser of pork.

* * *

All these are thoughtful responses to the House challenge to abolish the pork and they deserve serious answers. But we may be missing several things. There's a world of difference between the old system and the new one, as proposed by the House leaders. To begin with, until this year, the pork barrel items were automatically allotted in the budget to the members of Congress in lump sums of P200 million for each senator and P65 million for each House member; they were free to allocate it for projects they chose, no questions asked. Now, under line-item budgeting, Congress members who want projects have to have it inserted into the budget and justify its cost and the need for it. The scrutiny of each one's projects is done by the lawmakers themselves at the budget hearings in Congress, and as one House old-timer put it, perhaps a House member could justify one project for his district costing P10 million, but he'll be very lucky to get another one that easily. Certainly it will be more difficult to justify the usual basketball court and waiting sheds. Then, too, with the abolition of automatic allotments, the districts that don't need public works projects such as those in Metro Manila will have to give way to those in Basilan or Samar.

* * *

What's also not reckoned is the fact that line-item budgeting will scrutinize not just the legislators' projects, but also those of the executive department which, as lawmakers like to point out, has the biggest pork in government. These include the President's social fund of P500 million to P1 billion a year, the P500-million intelligence fund and the P1-billion contingency fund as well as other discretionary funds under her office's control. Under line-item budgeting, all these will be subject to scrutiny. Surely, the lawmakers giving up their pork will hold GMA to her pledge to match the amount they are giving up.

What I like about the proposal to scrap the lump-sum pork and resort to line budgeting is that it will instill fiscal discipline in both the executive and legislative branches. And together with the e-Procurement Act, it will make for fuller transparency and accountability.

* * *

Thanks to the kind souls who offered to fund the schooling and training of the seven students among Erda Technical-Vocational High School's over 400 students (a sponsorship costs P25,000 a year). Aside from the four sponsors cited here who are funding five students, two good friends of mine—Violeta Santos, wife of former Philippine Coconut Authority chair Oscar Santos, and former Ambassador Isabel Caro Wilson, have agreed to sponsor the two other students. God bless you.

* * *

Recently Cecile Guidote Alvarez and I featured in out dzRH Sunday evening poverty alleviation program Armando and Lynda Bartolome, a husband and wife team involved in advising firms and investors, especially overseas workers, on the franchising business. Their GMB Franchise Developers helps package firms for franchising, and it was truly uplifting to listen to them talk about the progress small and medium enterprises are scoring. For instance, out of 625 firms that are into franchising, 40 percent are Pinoy-owned and 60 percent involve foreign capital. We learned that the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. has 37 members, mostly micro-entrepreneurs, whose success rate is 97.25 percent and whose annual sales of P4.5 billion as of May 2002 jumped by another billion pesos in May 2003. President Macapagal-Arroyo will be very happy to know that these 37 members maintain 1,633 branches that generate some 10,634 jobs.

There are so many success stories among our SMEs, and one of them is that of Figaro Coffee Shop, which began some years back with two outlets and now has 54, including those in Hong Kong and Dubai. It's also about to open three coffee shops in Shanghai, China. What's good about Figaro is that it uses only our own *barako* coffee. In fact, proprietress Pacita "Chit" Juan, AFFI prexy, has set up the Coffee Foundation to help and encourage our coffee farmers to plant more coffee. More about the incredible franchising business tomorrow.

Reluctant legislators

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHATEVER the reason—whether he is indeed dismayed by the "negative" image of Congress, or he's sulking because Speaker Joe de Venecia did not appoint him deputy speaker—Rep. Antonio Diaz should make good his threat to resign as the duly-elected representative of Zambales. He really has no choice unless he wants to look like a wuss, and a loud-mouthed wuss at that.

And the House leadership, the Department of Justice or whatever government agency is tasked with the case, should go after Diaz for "refusal to discharge elective office," a crime apparently in our statutes but which the Zambales congressman did not know about before he started his public tantrum.

And whether he does vacate his post or not, I wish the voters of Zambales would remember Diaz's perfidy and make a mental note not to vote for him in 2007 or any subsequent elections. As the saying goes: Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.

For what Diaz has done is not just to make an embarrassment of himself, he has embarrassed the people of Zambales with his antics. If he were really all that concerned about the House's image, why did he still run for a seventh term, and why did he aspire for a leadership position?

Diaz has also deprived his constituents of representation in Congress, a basic right of every citizen. Did he even bother to inform them while begging for their votes that his serving was incumbent on his being named deputy speaker?

I do hope Speaker Joe, the master of compromise and diplomacy, would not manage to talk Diaz out of his *tampo*. The Zambales representative has already proven how unworthy he is of his office, and how he is willing to put personal interest before that of the good of his constituents.

* * *

BUT it isn't just Diaz who's guilty of abandoning the people he should be representing in Congress. The fifth district of Cebu, which includes Danao City, has also lost a representative after the youthful Rep. Joseph "Ace" Durano accepted the post of tourism secretary.

Unlike Diaz's unconventional departure, Durano left the House for a fairly "acceptable" reason: his appointment to a Cabinet position. But even then, the President should be reminded to stop or at least minimize this practice of raiding the legislature for men or women to fill up Cabinet posts. It's not as if there's a dearth of qualified and trustworthy individuals who are willing to serve the country through a government post. Why deprive the residents of a congressional district, or the supporters of a senator, of their representative?

As if to rub salt on the still-raw wounds of his people, Durano gave a rather lame explanation for his decision to leave the House. Legislative work, he said, "bored" him, as he found out during his previous term. He would much rather serve the people directly by providing services which he could do as tourism chief.

But if Durano was so bored during his first stint in the House, why on earth did he run for a second term? If he really wanted to serve on the Executive Branch, he could very well have bargained for a Cabinet position in exchange for his and his family's wholehearted support for the President. This, by the way, seems to be the only reason Durano, who has had no previous experience in the tourism and travel industry, or even in marketing, and was not exactly a "performing" congressman, was appointed to tourism.

Was his bid for reelection then a *segurista's* way of remaining in power, just in case Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo didn't make it?

* * *

MORE than once, we have heard senators or congressional representatives complain in the middle of their term that they felt not just bored but frustrated in the legislature, as it was "all talk" and "endless debates." But didn't they realize that both chambers of Congress are, indeed, debate chambers? That the process of lawmaking involves listening and consulting constituents, studying documents, attending hearings, and, lastly, debating with one's colleagues on the passage of legislation?

Legislators complain that during the campaign voters don't seem to care at all about their legislative record or the number and quality of the bills they sponsored and passed. What seems to matter to voters, they say, is the number of waiting sheds, basketball courts, irrigation systems and roads that the legislator delivered, thus their reluctance to let go of the pork barrel.

But how can voters learn to value legislative work when legislators themselves don't seem to think giving voice to their constituents in the process of making laws is all that important?

* * *

STILL, thank heaven for small blessings, such as the Congressional Spouses Foundation, headed by Gina de Venecia, which has thrown its support wholeheartedly behind Melissa Mercado Martel, whose frustrated parricide case against her wealthy husband has been discussed in this corner at length.

Leave it to Gina and the influential women of the CSFI, together with Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, to call together a powerhouse gathering of women from civic groups, NGOs, academe, the legal profession and women legislators plus a sprinkling of male supporters, for a roundtable discussion on the newly enacted law against violence against women and their children, specifically on how it affects Melissa's case.

While women should indeed look upon the new law as a long-awaited blessing and a real accomplishment, troubling gaps remain, as Melissa's rocky road to justice demonstrates. But with women organizing and raising consciousness about VAW issues, I'm confident we can soon put an end to this social malady and live in a world free from violence.

Those long-forgotten mariners

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THIS is really a tribute to one of our earliest groups of overseas workers who joined many of the galleon crews during the 200 years when those vessels made perilous journeys across the Pacific. It is on record that the Spaniards appreciated and valued the important maritime tradition of Filipino seamen and their magnificent talent for navigation.

The participation of these men in the Galleon Trade has really not received much attention, partly because archival records on the subject from this end are sparse, but it is almost certain that a good number of them must have served on galleon crews. The reality is that ordinary people seldom keep diaries and although they may have told stories of their journeys on their return none has been handed down to us.

In the Mexican archives and in the Archivo de las Indias in Spain, however, are lists of crew members of the different galleons. In them are found names divided into "*artilleros*" (artillerymen or gunners), "*marineros*" (seamen/sailors), "*grumetes*" (cabin boys and ship's boys).

One of the problems encountered by researchers is that at times all Asians are categorized as Chinese although it can be expected that some were indeed *mestizo Sangleys*. Sometimes payrolls are found but not the country of origin of the recipient. Other times, there are particulars of where they enlisted, especially in the 18th century where the numbers from Cavite are overwhelming.

Documentation regarding these seamen is dispersed. Sometimes their names show up in jail or hospital records; sometimes in a trial. For example, there exists in Mexico a document saying Miguel de Ocampo, "indio del Puerto de Cavite," single, seaman of 16 years, was indicted in Mexico and sentenced to return to the Philippines in 1774.

On the list of seamen in the galleon "Santisima Trinidad" on its voyage from Manila to Acapulco in 1760 are 31 officials, 63 troopers and 340 seamen divided into the four categories earlier mentioned. Among the latter, 302 were listed as Filipinos.

A group of Filipinos worked in the galleons that journeyed from Manila to Cadiz between 1770 and 1771 to bring back many of the Jesuits expelled from the Philippines. The first ship that transported 64 Jesuits was the frigate "San Carlos" which left for Acapulco on Feb. 2, 1768 under the command of D. Phelipe Cerain, but had to return on Oct. 22 due to tempestuous winds. Two Jesuits died during the aborted trip.

When the weather improved, the "San Carlos" set sail again together with another frigate, "Santa Rosa de Lima," or poetically "La Rosa." It was thought that between the two ships it would be possible to get rid of all the Jesuits.

Coincidentally the warship "Buen Consejo" from Cadiz was expected and it was thought that since it was going directly to Europe, it would be more convenient to bring the Jesuits with less of an encumbrance. By July 10, 1769, the ship was anchored in Cavite and its commander, D. Juan de Casens, was asked to inform the authorities how many he could take. It appeared he wasn't too eager to bring any priests on board.

By coincidence another frigate, "Venus," arrived and it was going the same way.

Eventually, the "San Carlos" took 21 Jesuits in 1769, the "Venus" 24 and the "Santa Rosa" 68 in 1770, and the "Astrea" eight in 1771.

It is believed that the Filipino seamen got stuck in Cadiz for two years, living in the boat since there was no money or means to send them back to the Philippines. Finally, they were able to return through the traditional route via New Spain, stopping by Vera Cruz in 1772. Two of them, Joseph Mariano Vique and Joseph Mathias, deserted in 1773, the first in March and the second in August. They were later captured.

Six died in 1773. Santiago Samulo and Joseph Ocampo did not leave because they got sick and were not able to accompany the contingent that left for Acapulco. The illnesses that afflicted the "*chinos de Manila,*" according to the documents, were corrosive ulcers, malignant fevers and eye inflammations. Those who died were Pedro de Leon, Andres de la Cruz, Pedro Castro, Pablo Joseph Bassilio de los Santos and Juan Jose Ambrosio.

They lived mainly in Mexico for some 20 months. There are extant records in the archives of their petitions mainly asking for money, requests for payments of salaries, or some other help. After Mexico, they left for Acapulco where in 1774 they crossed the Pacific to return home in the same year.

On the list of that embarkation is their place of origin. Among the artillerymen, 3 were from Manila and 21 from Cavite. Under *marineros*, there were 95 from Cavite, 3 from Manila, 2 from Pangasinan, 4 from Camarines, 1 each from Pampanga, Cagayan, Tondo and Ermita. Among the ship boys, 54 were from Cavite, 10 from Manila, 3 from Macabebe, 2 from Bulacan and Camarines, and 1 each from Cagayan, Ilocos, Laguna, Pampanga and San Roque.

Unfortunately, research and scholarship have never been high on the list of our priorities, so any information regarding our first overseas workers will just have to wait until foreign scholars take an interest in it.

(Information from Maria Fernanda G. de los Arcos, "Filipinas y su gente de Mar: la vuelta al mundo de cuarenta y dos chinos," 1770-1774).

Living with the wiggle

YOUNG BLOOD

May Lyn Cruz

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IT has been four years since a doctor diagnosed my dad with Parkinson's disease, a neurological disorder whose symptoms include shaky body movement, muscle rigidity and impaired mobility and balance. In Parkinson's, the brain cells that are essential in controlling motor functions die for yet unknown reasons. It is when about 60 percent of these cells have already been lost that the symptoms become apparent. And no, they don't grow back. Maybe in the future they will, with stem cell technology, but for now to have Parkinson's is to cross the Rubicon.

Initially it was very difficult for us to cope with a disease that is not so very well known in this country. Sure, Pope John Paul II, Muhammad Ali, and actor Michael J. Fox have it, but we personally knew no one who had the disease.

My dad's earliest symptom was a tremor in his right hand. He first dismissed it as the result of years of driving our old Tamaraw while resting his hand on the quivering stick shift. He was convinced it was a case of transference.

My Lolo, on the other hand, said it was just glamorized *pasma*. The possibility of Parkinson's never entered my mind because to me, it was something that struck foreigners only.

Obviously there was dire need for correct information about my dad's condition, and this was thankfully supplied by the Internet. We explained the things we learned in simpler terms to friends and family, especially those who have the tendency to become instant doctors and make their own diagnoses and prescriptions for my dad.

Through time, we have managed to live with my dad's condition. We made adjustments in our lifestyle. We treated my dad's tremor, his greatest symptom, as one of the family, and even gave it a name: "wiggle."

At times, wiggle is obedient, stopping when controlled by another hand. Wiggle especially trusts my mom, so she often sits or stands to the right of my dad to hold his hand.

During my brother's wedding, no one noticed that the photographer departed from this standard arrangement and placed my new sister-in-law beside my dad. When the pictures were developed, everyone noticed that the bride was holding hands not with my brother, but with my father.

We were settling in with the rapid deterioration of my dad's condition when we stumbled upon the support group for Parkinson's patients in the country. It has done wonders for us. It lifted the feeling of isolation my family felt. When I walked into the meeting hall filled with patients and their families, I cried inside. My family was definitely not alone. Fate did not cruelly single us out.

Through the support group, we were educated on different aspects of the disease and got updates on the latest developments, such as a promising surgery involving fitting electrodes into the brain to stimulate it and to control movement. Through the group, we also met a dedicated Filipino specialist who made a more thorough examination of my dad. After intensive testing and observations, he said my dad was suffering needlessly from insufficient medication. He was given a new set of prescriptions that was more appropriate for his condition.

His prescription read: 2,000 pieces of one particular pill; another 2,000 pieces of another kind; 1,000 of another; also 1,000 for still another; and 500 of yet another medicine. The daily dosage was indicated for each of these medicines, except for the last one which he has take only when needed. That was a prescription for a total of 6,500 pills. Surreal.

I was prompted to make some mathematica; computations. All those pills were actually just enough for 1 to 2 years, depending on the dosage. The combination of medicines would be what my dad would had to take every day of his life as maintenance, like some vitamins, unless his condition warrants some changes in the dosage. I suppose the doctor could've made it an open prescription, but the numbers were there, and it drove home the point that Parkinson's is still one of those conditions that demands a lifetime commitment. A cure has yet to be found.

Still, the 6,500 pills made me happy. After several months, my dad had better control of his right hand. Now he can draw straight lines again. He can eat again without making a mess like a little child. Wiggle doesn't hang around so very often anymore. My parents are talking about resuming their Sunday morning grocery dates again. The medicines have given back some functions to my dad we had thought were gone forever.

I am hopeful that a cure for Parkinson's will be found in the future, although I doubt that my dad and others who are afflicted with it now will benefit from it. There is still so much that needs to be learned about Parkinson's.

In the meantime, we will do what we can to provide a good quality of life for my dad in spite of the disease: 6,500 pills for the next two years, and a healthy, loving home for a lifetime.

May Lyn Cruz, 26, works for her family's wood furniture business and is studying for her second degree at the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts. The Parkinson's Support Group of the Philippines Foundation holds regular meetings for patients, their families and caregivers, and can be reached at Tel. Nos. 631-1531 to 35.

THEY SAID

New toys

"Were Congress to follow Malacañang's bidding to enact new tax measures, what that means is that we will just be giving new toys to the same company of tax officers to mess around with."

—Sen. Joker Arroyo

Pork chase

"People believe that the reason we are running for office is that we're after the pork barrel funds. That is the impression that we want to erase."

—Sen. Panfilo Lacson

Sneaky

"Like a thief in the night, the ERC (Energy Regulatory Commission) sneaked in this highly revolting rate increase while the people were taking a rest from a week of hard work and less pay."

—Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas national chair Fernando Hicap on the rate increase granted to National Power Corp.

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Decoys, instead of express lanes

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has asked Congress to pass a law creating express lanes in government offices where transactions can be made more speedy for taxpayers.

The proposed express lanes are intended to eliminate fixers in government offices. To guide the public on the use of these express lanes, manuals have to be provided. The manuals would detail transaction procedures and steps and identify transaction rates and the officials concerned. But the production of the manuals would entail much cost.

With all due respect to the President who, I know, means well, I'm afraid these express lanes will never succeed in even minimizing corruption, mainly because of the absence of a penal provision. Thus, there's no stopping fixers from circumventing the express lanes—especially with the collaboration of officials.

But there is a much more effective and yet much less costly way to stop corruption—use decoys to transact business with selected offices. These decoys will have to be law enforcement officers so that corrupt persons caught in flagrante can be arrested at once.

With the arrest of a few corrupt fixers and employees, we can be absolutely sure that corruption will stop at once, more so if the caught offenders will be sent to jail.

—RUBEN OLIVER ENSOY,
Timex, Fishermen's Village,
San Jose District, Tacloban City

Let's not lose sight of Olympic spirit

BEFORE THE ATHENS Olympics 2004, our sports leaders were fishing in the sky, spreading around the hope of winning a gold medal.

The real objective of sports is to develop the youth spiritually, morally, mentally and physically, without any political, religious and economic intervention. This is also the spirit behind the Olympic movement. But we are moving away from it.

Another purpose of the Olympics is to find out our limitations compared to other countries.

Sports is the gauge of a country. Do not expect medals if the government is run like hell.

Our sports leaders should recognize our shortcomings and address them, not make excuses and dwell on "consuelo de bobo" achievements, such as our athletes broke the Philippine records, which should be done at home and not in the Olympics.

Let us not raise hopes of winning medals as a way of justifying big sports delegations which boast of more officials than athletes. Although the wives of national sports presidents are invited to the Olympics, most go there because they get to travel free, and they are there more for the fun of shopping. For them, it's "Join sports and see the world!"

—LT. COL. JULIAN M. MALONSO (ret.),
former president,
Philippine Olympic Committee,
92 New York St.,
Cubao, Quezon City

DPWH takes care of old bridges

IN CONNECTION with the article titled, "Old bridges are heritage, too" by Augusto Villalon (Lifestyle, 7/27/04), the Department of Public Works and Highways would like to inform the public that prior to implementation, every infrastructure project of the DPWH undergoes an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the purpose of securing an environmental compliance certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. This is to assure the public that careful studies have been made on the ecological and social viability of the construction of major roads and bridges.

Presidential Decree 1151, known as the Philippine Environmental Policy (June 1977), requires all agencies and instrumentalities of the national government, including government-owned and controlled corporations, as well as public corporations, firms and entities to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS contains the Environmental Management Plan, which addresses significant effects of any action/plan/project/undertaking on the environment.

The DPWH's chief environmental management specialist, Belinda Fajardo, also assures the public that pursuant to Proclamation No. 2146 (December 1981), the DPWH does not disregard the value of our cultural heritage, like the old bridges, which are "of historic, archaeological or scientific interest." Fajardo assures that the DPWH improves old bridges because they need to be strengthened to ensure their continued existence.

—JENNIFER D. PUNZALAN,
officer in charge,
Public Information Division,
Department of Public Works and
Highways, Office of the Secretary,
Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila

Bid goodbye to gov't luxury cars

SEN. ALFREDO Lim made sense when he suggested that the government should sell all its luxury vehicles to raise badly needed funds. The suggestion of the former top policeman, NBI chief and Manila mayor that government officials should consider going to work on owner-type jeeps should not be taken as a joke.

A reliable owner-type jeep sells for as low as P80,000, while the sport utility vehicles that our government officials and their bodyguards love to use cost upwards of P2 million apiece. It's a no-brainer choice, really.

And Lim shot full of holes the argument that officials on owner-type jeeps would be very vulnerable to assassination attempts. He said it's much easier to jump off or return fire from a jeep than from an SUV or a car.

What Lim wants to impress on the government is that there is no limit as to how it can save money in trying to plug the huge budgetary deficit. Yes, the government needs to save and scrape the bottom of the barrel first before thinking of slapping us ordinary people and struggling corporations with more taxes.

We must oppose President Arroyo's new tax measures, including the tax on text messages in whatever form it is presented (e.g. windfall profit or franchise tax). More power and God bless.

—JENINA DIMAANDAL,
Marikina,
jenina_dimaandal@yahoo.com

What today's youth lack

"THE PROBE Team Documentaries" hosted by Cheche Lazaro recently featured a TV special commemorating Ninoy Aquino's martyrdom. It was a well-made documentary, which showed very nice footages of the wake at Times Street and the Sto. Domingo Church, as well as the historic funeral march. I am glad that there are still efforts to rekindle those momentous events in our political history. However, it is a sad fact that many of our young people are unaware of Ninoy's self-sacrifice and heroism. In a way, I pity the younger generation of Filipinos who were not able to witness and experience the political upheavals we, in the '60s and '70s, were fortunate to have been a part of. I still remember the Plaza Miranda bombing of the LP proclamation rally, the 1978 Laban campaign and the noise barrage, the Aquino homecoming and its aftermath including the weekly Makati rallies, the 1984 Batasan elections, the Aquino-Marcos face-off in the snap presidential election of 1985 and, of course, the 1986 Edsa revolution itself. Those were the best of times and the worst of times, in a manner of speaking. I am fortunate to have found a hero and role model in Ninoy Aquino. Sadly, our young people are still searching for their own.

—FERDIE T. SIBAL,
18 Green Leaves St., Capitol Green
Village, Tandang Sora, Quezon City

Aglipay commended on war vs street crimes

I WOULD like to commend Gen. Edgardo Aglipay for his performance as chief of the Philippine National Police. Within the short span of time he assumed his present position, he has already made a big difference. He understands the primary concern of the majority of the citizens—they don't feel safe anymore. Previous PNP chiefs simply ignored street crimes and instead made us believe that they are part of the urban landscape, as much as traffic and garbage. They failed to see that the increasing brazenness of street criminals remains the bigger menace, although they do not grab the headlines the way the wars on drugs or kidnap-for-ransom do.

We have seen the results of Aglipay's initiatives—increased police visibility and policemen on foot patrols—the only deterrents to street crime. May I just suggest that the PNP increase their number in streets like Araneta Avenue, Quirino Avenue and other such streets that lead to or are near schools. I hope that Aglipay will continue with these measures against street crimes which will do a lot to make us feel safer. If he does, he will have raised the bar by which all those succeeding him will be measured.

More power to him and may we have more people in government like him, who strive to make a difference in our lives even in the short time that they get to serve the public.

—MA. CRISITINA G. CRUZ,
cruz2k2@yahoo.com.hk

Morality

IT is so easy to cry out "freedom of the press" when SM management decided to ban R-18 movies in their cinemas. But I, along with many others, am giving the move a thumbs up.

I grew up in a generation that witnessed the proliferation of dirty tabloids and "titillating" films, all done in the name of freedom. But while these artists are so busy expressing themselves, I get into the lustful stares, the "tsansing," and even the danger of being raped by men whose lust has been ignited by such freedom. I take a taxi and find the driver reading between green lights a sensually stirring column in some tabloid, and I wonder if I would make it home safely. I get home and turn on the TV, and I see news about a grandfather raping his own granddaughter after watching a "titillating" film. I go out on the street to buy something from the convenience store, and what do I hear? Children—no more than 10 years old—singing malicious songs and dancing and laughing their heads off. And how many times have we heard young boys raping and abusing young girls?

There is no question: this kind of art can so corrupt the minds of people.

Artists involved in this kind of industry practice freedom of the press at my expense, at the expense of those poor rape victims, and at the expense of corrupted young minds whom we often call "the hope of the future." They earn their thousands and reap their millions while they leave a trail of damage that no amount of money can ever repair. If they can have their freedom, what about mine? What about the freedom of others?

I am glad that SM management is taking the risk and setting the standard not to show R-18 films in their cinemas. I do not want my children to grow up in a morally corrupt environment. Who does? But wait a minute, did I just mention the words "morally corrupt"? Am I talking about morality here? Oh, no. There's that word again, morality. Who wants to talk about it? I do. I am talking about it. I believe it's high time we talked—and did something—about uplifting the morality of this nation. We are, after all, the only Christian nation in Asia. And contrary to what most people believe, we can do something about it. The new policy on SM cinemas is a good start.

—CHE GUTIERREZ,
ech_ech@yahoo.com

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Will you donate cash or jewelry to our government to help reduce our debt and deficit?

no coz salaried employees have already sacrificed a lot 4 our country by diligently paying their taxes
—Jimmy Samonte, *Makati*

Sorry, big No. it will just be lost 2 corruption, besides I pay taxes regularly &honestly.
—Jiji Debuyan, *Negros Occidental*

ako hindi, dapat kasi magbayad ng buwis ang mga mamamayan ng tama lalo na mayayaman, di kasi yan makakasapat sa pagbabayad ng utang natin
—Malou Hndinero, *San Jose, Bulacan*

donating cash or jewelry wil stil be going to the pockets of the politicians, its still useless!
—Archie Flores, *Iloilo City*

wat 4? so dos crooks can steal our hard-earned money again? u don't ask a thief 2 pay ur debts, nor 2 properly invest ur money
—Trudis Sapitan, *Malolos, Bulacan*

Bawiin muna ang ninakaw na laman ng kaban para maniwala kami na serious ang administration sa sinasabi nila
—R. Balbin, *Cotabato City*

if donating cash or jewelry would be the last chance 2 save our nation from the crisis, i'll take the chance.
—Reina Piangco, *Capoocan, Leyte*

Oo, basta hindi grupo ng mga "PULITIKO" ang hahawak ng mga donations!
—R. Narca, *Makati*

some believe dat corruption must be dealt with first
—Judith Africa, *Lipa City*

syempre hindi coz malay mo! kung saan nila gamitin ang pera! Sa panahon pa ngayon!
—Russel, *Roxas City*

why will i donate anything when I'm paying taxes. maybe we should eliminate corrupt government officials who keep d money 4 their use
—Leianne Razon, *Parañaque*

no, I'm paying enuf tax already. Dat will suffice. D govt shld learn 2 set their priorities n think twice before spending our money
—Margarita Diamante, *Lucena City*

no! dadagdagan lang natin kukurakutin nila! ibigay ko na lang sa pulubi!
—JJuan, *Cagayan*

I suggest that all government employees & officials will donate 1-day salary as an example 2 everybody.
—Theresa Diola, *Butuan City*

no, i wud not give anything 2 d govt bcoz i hav no assurance dat d collection wil b handled wisely.
—Iyenn C., *Lipa City*

i wil donate money only if there is a safe process in receiving, keeping and spending the collected funds.
—Divine Siasoco, *Marikina*

I won't donate bcoz I'm not sure where it will really be used. We shud donate 2 those hu are in need. Govt doesn't deserve any help at all.
—Cyrus Corpuz, *Cavite*

no, because i believe dat the government has so much money but it does not prioritize where d money shud go.
—Tricia N. Pribdhas, *Quezon City*

No, da govt. officials are responsible 4dat. stop corruption 2help fight poverty crisis, reduce debt & deficit.
—Theresa Tanco, *Parañaque*

i wiL not donate any of the 2. i think they shouLd focus on income generating projects n not on heLp. we need seriousness.
—Francis Emralino, *San Pablo City*

i will donate cash to our govt to ensure stability of our country. to help and sustain govt projects to beat d crisis.
—Eric Lotho, *Sta. Rosa City*

It's gallant of DOT employees to start d piso-piso campaign. But I'm curious, where does all d travel tax go?
—Elizabeth Almario, *Parañaque*

No way! ano para madagdag sa kukurakutin ng mga ibang officials, stop corruption para mawala deficit!
—Arnold Sahagun, *Caloocan*

why not, if my savings outnumbered my needs, I'll help d govt in a little way i could.
—Sheryl, *City of Malolos*

No. I'd lyk 2 help d govt but dis is not d right way, it is as if we're donating 2 charity. D country needs 2 think of d welfare of d collective
—Grace Yap, *Las Piñas*

no i will NOT donate 2 our govt! We pay enuf taxes dat go 2 d pockets of politicians, dats d reason there is a deficit.
—Charlene Caoili, *Quezon City*

NO! are we d ones hu wasted d money of d govt? why not ask mike arroyo (jose pidal) wer he put r money. GMA ask ur husband!
—M. Mamang, *Isabela*

no way. i have been paying my tax right. It is d corrupt people in govt who should return what they took from d Fil people.
—Sheila Lachica, *Pasig City*

I'll give 4 d noble cause, being more capable dan fellow Filipinos hur behind bars but gave, trusting dat govt be frugal in dis hand 2 mouth situation
—Jen Nam-on, *Makati*

no, d govt has enuf money, it's juz inefficient use of d money. But i will do my share 2 help, lyk proper payment of taxes
—Gerard Gumban, *Davao City*

D act of solicitation 2 help da govt is a noble deed. But 2 attract support, we need a person 2 lead with integrity beyond reproach n not Speaker Jose de Venecia. It is akin 2 dracula asking 4 blood donations 4 hospital patients
—Jerome Escobedo, *Lapu Lapu City*

no. not until pig politician give up der pork barrel n d president her social fund. its morally wrong 2 keep it
—Kristine Patdu, *Bulacan*

no. bcoz only corrupt govt. officials wud benefit from our donations.
—Sandro Sevilla, *Cebu City*

Bakit tayo patak piso, sa BIR na naka-nakaw na sila sa banco, pano pa ito wala recibo, walang sistema pa. yayaman todo c de venecia
—Jun Taño, *QC*

No, our officials must stop kickbacks & corruption, den do their job honestly & well. Der will b no nid 2 donate der salaries, nor ours. NO! Bcoz what I do not have, i cannot give!
—Richmond Uy, *Quezon City*

message: donate cash. Kam 2 think of it, if all Filipinos wud jas give even P1, dat equals = about millions of it
—Louella Khoo, *Quezon City*

No. These govt. officials are our fiscal managers. They must be made accountable for where our economy is heading.
—Eduardo Bongolan, *Mandaluyong*

Hindi. Naisin ko man mag-isip para sa ikabubuti ng kolektibo, dapat maging patas ang gobyerno. Pahirap na kami ng pahirap, ano pang maibibigay namin?
—Serge Yap, *Las Piñas*

i will not donate anything but i can be of great help if i myself be a good abiding citizen by paying taxes dat are due
—Chie Santos, *Parañaque City*

if i have money 2 donate why not. hope it will help to reduce government debt, not politicians debt.
—Harold Harvey Lu, *Davao City*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2004 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER A15

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartolle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Across the NATION
Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

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John O sues Cebu rivals for plunder

CEBU CITY—Former Sen. John Osmeña yesterday filed a complaint for plunder and graft against Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, her father former Gov. Pablo Garcia and four others before the Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas.

Osmeña said Pablo Garcia used P1 billion in public funds to ensure the victory of Gwendolyn in the gubernatorial race last elections.

He said Gwendolyn conspired with her father and four Capitol department heads in "making these unwarranted, unreasonable, unjustified and illegal releases that bankrupted the provincial coffers and defrauded the province of Cebu."

Osmeña named these Capitol personnel as provincial engineer Peter Madera, provincial budget officer Eduardo Habin, provincial accountant Marieto Ypil and provincial treasurer Roy Salubre.

But the Garcia camp is planning to file charges of oral defamation against Osmeña and seek P50 million in damages for besmirching their reputation.

Pablo John Garcia, brother and legal counsel of the incumbent governor, said they were also asking the four Capitol officials to also file a case against Osmeña to consolidate the cases.

In a letter to Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas Primo Miro, Osmeña asked the antigraft office to look into the disbursement of public funds in the province.

OSMEÑA

GARCIA SR.

Osmeña alleged that about P500 million was spent in dole-outs to selected barangays and municipal officials, public school teachers and other personalities "under the guise of an antidrugs education program and antidrugs campaign."

He added about P300 million was also distributed among selected towns and villages to fund "nebulous projects," which were not supported by programs of works and estimates and did not follow any municipal or provincial investment and development plan.

"Public funds were paid out as salaries and expenses to persons who worked solely in the political campaign and propaganda activities of then candidate Gwendolyn Garcia, orchestrated by her or by her father and (the four Capitol officials)," said Osmeña.

Pablo John refuted Osmeña's claims that the "Garcias bankrupted Cebu."

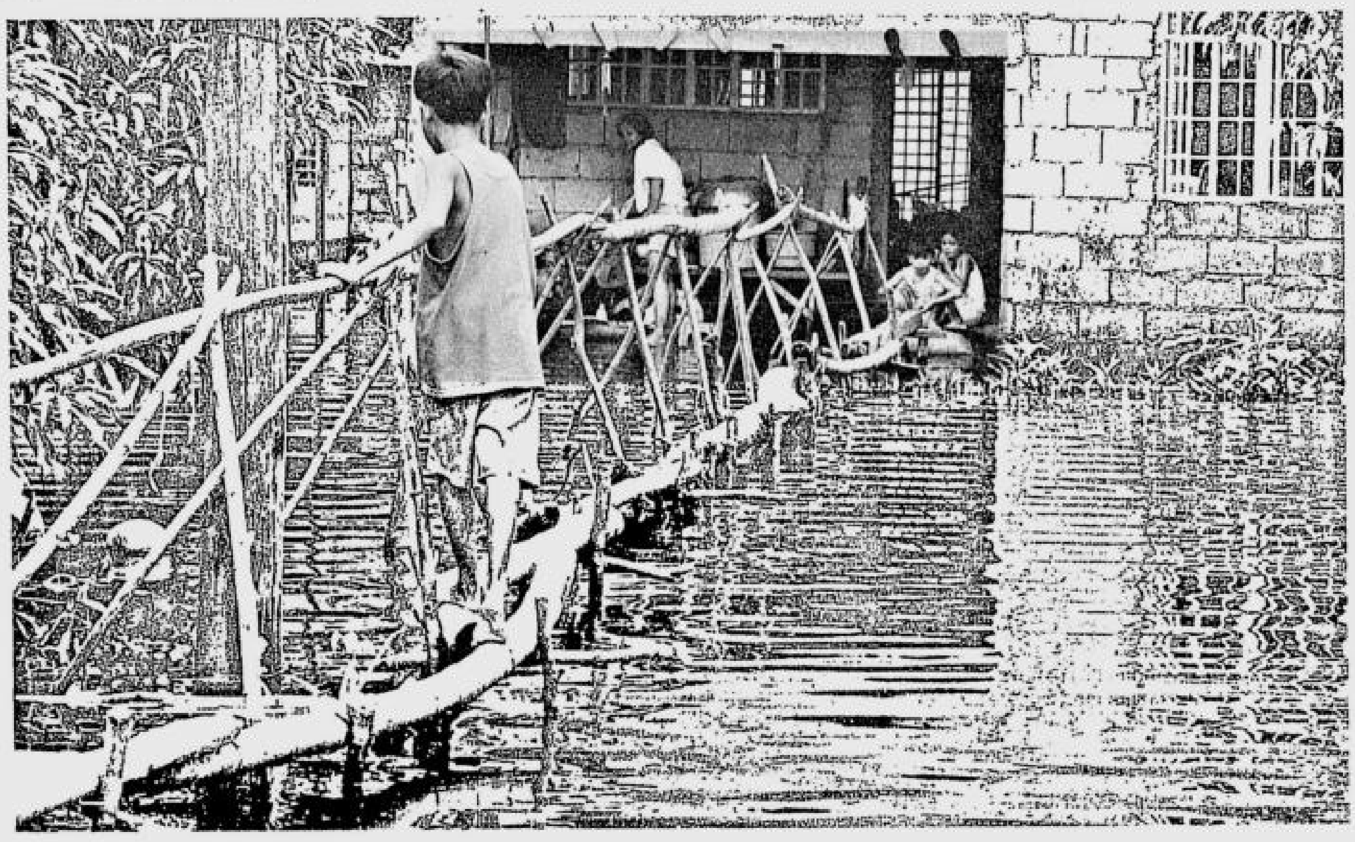
He showed reporters yesterday a copy of the Commission on Audit report that said Cebu province ranked first in terms of assets and total income at P1,398,047.

Pablo John said the province's savings reached P1.7 billion as of Sept. 14 this year.

"Everyone is entitled to his own entertainment," she said, adding that Osmeña could "do whatever he wants to while he is out of office, such as pursuing cosmetology and hair science."

"I am quaking and shaking in my high-heeled shoes," she said sarcastically.

Osmeña denied that his decision to file a complaint against the Garcias was meant to avenge his son, former Vice Gov. John Gregory Osmeña who lost to Gwendolyn last elections. *Connie E. Fernandez, Kathy I. Navarro and Jolene R. Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau*


RUDY ESPERAS

FLOOD CROSSING

The ingenuity of villagers of Sta. Ana, Pampanga is put to practical use as they build a footbridge on top of floodwaters that takes too long to recede in their town.

ROUNDUP

18 die in grenade blast

COTABATO—At least 18 people were wounded when a grenade exploded and gunshots were fired at the height of a brawl between army soldiers at a crowded village dance here, officials said. Police were investigating the incident that occurred early Sunday on the outskirts of Balabagan town, in southern Lanao del Sur province, and would soon make arrests, officials said without elaborating. Soldiers, some of them drunk, apparently had a misunderstanding and came to blows, followed by gunfire and a grenade blast. *AP*

Gathering of Bicol priests

THE BICOL clergy will gather until Sept. 17 at the Holy Rosary Minor Seminary in Naga City in connection with the Peñafrancia festivities. This is an annual gathering of all Bicolano priests and bishops (more than 400 of them) coming from the archdioceses of Caceres, Diocese of Legazpi, Virac, Masbate, Sorsogon, Daet, the prelature of Libmanan, and the military ordinariate. This annual gathering was first held on Sept. 18, 1959.

Killing over CARP land

BACOLOD CITY—An agrarian reform beneficiary (ARB) allegedly shot dead a fellow ARB and injured his father on Friday in Barangay Santol, Binalbagan town, about 72.7 km south of here. Insp. Virgilio de la Cruz, Binalbagan police chief, said the suspect Roberto Villanueva, 36, shot in the head Elias Gella Jr., also a member of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit. Villanueva allegedly shot Gella's father Elias Sr., hitting him in the left hand. De la Cruz said the victims and the suspect are both ARBs in the property of Manuel Abello, which was placed under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. He said Villanueva had an argument with the Gellas reportedly triggered by land conflict. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

New wage order issued

COTABATO CITY—Despite minor opposition from the business sector, the Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Board (RTWPB) has released its new wage order for Central Mindanao effective Sept. 1. Lawyer Joel Gonzales, board secretary for Central Mindanao, said the new wage order has made it mandatory for employers' "to integrate" in the old basic pay of P170 a P10 per day provisional emergency relief assistance (Pera) including the grant of a daily cost of living allowance (Cola). Non-agriculture workers are entitled to a P20 Cola, while those in the agriculture sector would get P10, he said. With this new wage adjustment as a result of the spiraling prices of goods and services, Gonzales said the total daily take-home pay of agriculture and non-agriculture workers would be P190 and P200, respectively. Some employers, including members of the chamber of commerce and industry in North Cotabato, were opposed to the new wage adjustment due to alleged non-consultation. But Gonzales said there was an information campaign on the wage adjustment. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cops shoot militiaman dead

DAVAO CITY—Police authorities in the Island Garden City of Samal shot dead a militiaman late Friday evening after he took the 17-year-old girl she was courting as hostage for more than five hours. Killed was Lloyd Alburo, a Cafgu assigned to the 12th Special Forces Battalion based in Barangay Saquing in Makilala, North Cotabato. Chief Insp. Jose Carumba, Samal police chief, said Alburo, armed with a grenade, forcibly took the girl from her school and held her hostage in a neighborhood in Penaplata district starting 4 p.m. Friday. He said Alburo, who was drunk at that time, wanted to marry the girl. The victim's family tried to persuade the militiaman by pretending to agree but he would not let go of the girl. Carumba said after assessing the situation, the police decided to shoot the suspect to avert a possible disaster. He said Alburo continued to pose a threat to the girl's family, the negotiating party and the neighborhood because he would not surrender the grenade. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

One of Quezon's most wanted falls

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Operatives of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) based in this camp arrested one of Quezon province's most wanted criminals during a police operation inside his safe house in Mabitac, Laguna, over the weekend: Supt. Mario Sanga, CIDG Calabarzon chief, said jeepney driver Apolinar Campomanes, 51, had been in hiding for years after he was involved in a murder case in Gumaca, Quezon. He said the suspect was arrested on Saturday night in a far-flung village in Mabitac after they received a report on the suspect's whereabouts from a concerned citizen. He said Campomanes was arrested by virtue of a warrant of arrest issued by Judge Antonio Mendez Sr. of the Gumaca Regional Trial Court. The suspect was listed as the fifth most wanted criminal in Quezon and carried a P75,000 reward for his capture. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

DOJ chief says his critics all 'b..s,' foolish

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Mincing no words, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez lashed at the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) for the group's reported plan to block his appointment before the Commission on Appointments (CA).

"They're all b...s," Gonzalez said in a press conference shortly after he arrived in Iloilo City on Friday.

"They don't know what they're talking about that's why I'm not afraid of these people," Gonzalez, a lawyer and former Iloilo congressman, said.

The IBP Board of Governors, the highest policy-making body of the 40,000-member lawyers' group, passed a resolution last year accusing Gonzalez of being behind the slashing of the P20-million annual legal aid subsidy given to the IBP.

Gonzalez allegedly got irked after the IBP Board of Governors objected to the registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission of the IBP Chapter Presidents Congress, which the former congressman founded.

But Gonzalez said he was unaware that the subsidy was slashed. "It was the (Department of Budget and Management) that did not include it in the 2003 budget. What do I have to do with that?" he said.

He said the IBP does not get P20 million from the government but from the funds of the Supreme Court.

"Why are they charging me with the loss? That was a foolish resolution," said Gonzalez.

The INQUIRER tried to reach IBP national president Jose Anselmo Cadiz for comment but he was still in China attending a conference.

Mystery surrounds Pinay maid's death in Singapore

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

MALASIQUI, Pangasinan—This is another story of a young wife and mother who risked everything by working abroad so her family would have a better life. In the process, she lost hers.

On Aug. 31, Leonora Aquino went to Singapore to work as a domestic helper. Three days later, she was dead after she reportedly fell from the window of the third floor apartment of her employer. She would have turned 30 on Sept. 30.

Aquino's remains were brought back to her hometown here on Sept. 10 to the waiting arms of her husband Philip, 35, and children Phoebe, 12; King Philip, 10; Raiza, 9, and Aira, 4.

"I did not want her to go, I told her that we could manage even if there was little money. Even my eldest daughter tried to stop her, telling her she and her siblings were still very young to be left behind," a teary-eyed Philip said.

But Leonora was insistent on going, saying she wanted to help meet the financial needs of her family and her sisters. Philip finally relented and gave P15,000 for her expenses.

Philip, a driver, said a town mate, Perla Isidro, recruited his wife and several others for domestic jobs in Singapore.

It was not known if Aquino was holding a tourist or working visa. But it was possible that she held a tourist visa because she had no record with the Philippine Overseas and Employment Administration, Philip said.

After her death, Philip also received a text message from Isidro that she had recommended Leonora for direct hiring because she was in a hurry to leave.

The Singaporean employer sent the airline tickets so she could go immediately.

On the early morning of Aug. 31, while her children were sleeping, Aquino quietly left for Manila supposedly for a three-day training before going to Singapore.

But later that day, Philip was surprised when she received a text message from his wife that she was already at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and was about to board a plane.

"She said she was using another cellular phone because somebody got her phone," Philip said.

When Philip sent a text message again saying he was the husband of the woman who used the unit and he wanted to talk to her, he received a reply "I don't know her."

After that, there was no more news on the whereabouts of Aquino.

It was only on Sept. 3 when Philip received reports from people sent by the woman who recruited Aquino that his wife was already dead.

Pampanga gov vows to raise quarry revenue to ₱20M

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—In what was said to be his first meeting with the provincial board on the issue of poor quarry collections, Pampanga Gov. Mark Lapid has promised to increase the revenues to P20 million this year.

Reached by phone on Sunday, Lapid confirmed having made that target in his Friday's meeting with the provincial board, including its presiding officer Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao.

The meeting, which took place at 7 p.m. at the Fortune Restaurant here, was closed to the media. Board Members Lilia Pineda, Cesar Magat and Salvador Dimson were absent.

Guaio, in a separate interview, also confirmed the P20-million target set by Lapid.

"(The governor) asked us if we could give him at least 100 days. In that time, he promised there would be significant improvement in the collections of quarry taxes," Guiao told the INQUIRER.

While the board agreed to grant Lapid the so-called honeymoon period, there was initial skepticism if the provincial quarry task force could really meet the collection target, Guiao said.

He said they asked this in the light of the trend in revenue generation.

Citing reports from Provincial Treasurer Vergel Yabut, Lapid, who heads the task force, said quarry taxes collected reached P14 million in 2002, P6.9 million in 2003 and P6.5 million from January to August this year.

This means that in the next three-and-a-half months, the task force would have to produce P13.5 million to attain the target.

Confronted with the same issue that besieged his father, now Sen. Manuel Lapid, the governor said: "We will do best efforts."

Unlike his father's two last terms as governor, the young Lapid said he is dealing with the issue in the context of the national government's fiscal crisis.

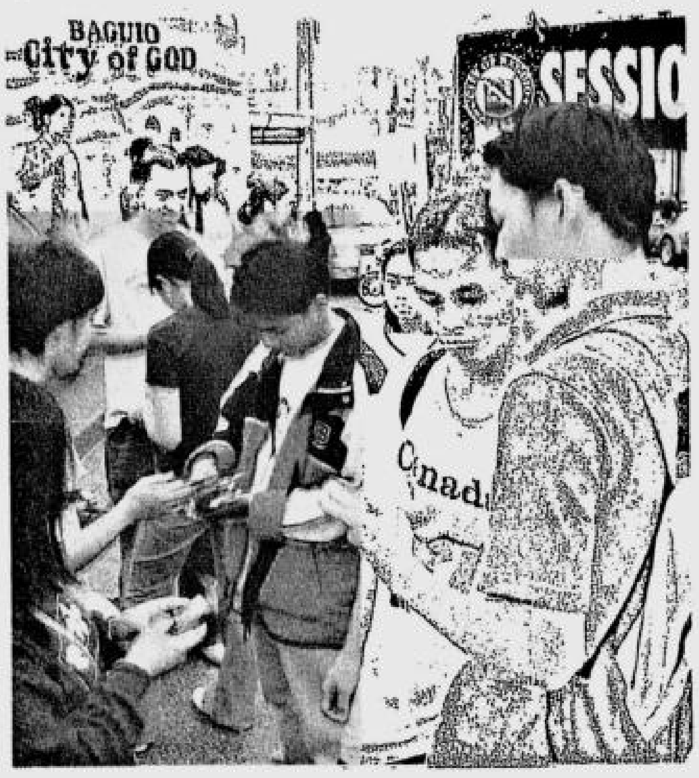
The elder Lapid was cleared of graft charges a few months before he ran for the Senate.

Guiao, according to a source in the board, observed that the target collection was "too small." He earlier said the quarry revenues could shore up the provincial government's finances for more social services and infrastructures without relying too much on the Internal Revenue Allotment, the share of local governments from the national income.

Guaio told the INQUIRER he urged the governor to "go beyond target." He said his fiscalizing work did not stop with Lapid's promise to step up collections.

The target seemed a small fraction of the potential income. Various estimates pegged the number of trucks hauling sand out of Pampanga daily at 3,000. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Man learns thieves' tricks after losing 6 cell phones



SIM SWAP on Session Road in Baguio City. The cellular phone industry has spawned gimmicks and markets of their own, thanks to what some say was Filipino ingenuity and others describe as simply gullibility.

EV ESPIRITU/ PDI NORTHERN LUZON

CONRADO Adre, 32, of Pangil, Laguna, could be the unluckiest cell phone owner in Luzon. He lost six mobile phones since 1998 and his experience is a virtual inventory of the common ways people lose their cellular phones.

His first phone was a Motorola V2088. In September 1998, after buying VCDs in Divisoria during heavy rain, he lost it while transferring from a tricycle to a taxi. He ran after the tricycle, but the driver sped off.

Lost in the rain

He "lost" his second phone, a Nokia 3210, sometime later, and the rain figured again. The phone (the model hit the market in 1999) was accidentally soaked in a downpour and could no longer be used.

In 2000, Adre, who works in Manila, bought a Nokia 3310. On one visit home, he boarded a Laguna-bound bus at 2:30 a.m. and then slept during the trip. When he reached the terminal in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, he found that his phone, complete with its new colorful accessories, was no longer in his bag.

'Laglag Barya Gang'

CELL PHONE THEFT
Inquirer
InqTV
Libre
Inq7.net
Bandera
Cebu Daily News
Tumbok

Fast forward a few years. An extra-cautious Adre boarded a Manila-bound jeepney at about 6 a.m., on his way to the office, his Nokia 7610 inside his pocket. A motley group of passengers entered the jeepney. Just a few minutes later, his cell phone was gone. He had been the victim, he found out later, of the "Laglag Barya [Drop Loose Change] Gang."

The phone he bought as replacement, a Nokia 3315, he lost again, to a snatcher. That fifth time, he was inside a Tamaraw FX taxi.

He lost his sixth phone, a Nokia 5510, to an acquaintance, who wanted to buy it in four "gives" or installments. After paying Adre a down payment of P1,000, the "friend" disappeared. Adre hasn't seen the person ever since.

'Don't fight it out'

"My experiences about cellular phones are very extraordinary," Adre told the INQUIRER. "I've learned ... so many 'modus operandi' [sic] victimizing phone owners. But at least I'm proud and lucky. Why? I am still alive. There were many whose 5110s were snatched and fought it out but were killed."

Adre's advice to mobile phone owners: "In case your phone is stolen, you don't have to fight it out with the snatcher. Give the unit to him, rather than be killed. Then, buy a new one!"

Albay governor

In Albay, Gov. Fernando Gonzalez said the usual style of stealing phones was through "deception," or the "1,2,3" style. Someone asks to borrow the cell phone to place an emergency call in exchange for P200. If the owner agrees, the borrower uses the phone, and then quickly leaves the owner behind, or loses him in a crowd. This is a variation on the scheme that Adre's acquaintance used on him.

The same thing happened to Ryan Manaloto of San Fernando, Pampanga. Once, a man approached him, introducing himself as a *barangay tanod* (village watchman), and asking him if he could use his phone to track down a suspect. In minutes, Manaloto's Nokia 3315 was gone.

Pangasinan police

Supt. Rayland Malenab, head of the Pangasinan police's intelligence unit, said their records showed that most phones were stolen while their owners were using them, either while walking or riding in jeepneys. Adre lost four of his phones inside a jeepney or other public utility vehicles. In Legazpi City, police said most cell phone thefts happen inside passenger jeepneys plying the Daraga-Legazpi route on J. P. Rizal Street.

In Puerto Princesa, said policeman Reynold Buñag, cell phones are usually stolen from backpacks of unaware victims while they are inside the public market where most petty thieves concentrate. Adre lost one phone while it was still inside his bag. The only difference was, he was asleep at the time. *With reports from Romulo Ponte, Delfin T. Mallari, Marlon Ramos, Madonna T. Virola, Jofelle Tesorio, Michael Jaucian, Ronnie Lorejo, Joyce Mejillano, Job Belen and Alan Pelayo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Tonette Orejas, Anselmo Roque, Carmela Reyes and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk; and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Peter La. Julian, Leoncio Balbin Jr., Villamor Visaya Jr. and Gobleth Moulic, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Tanong ng Bayan

INQ TV

ABC Tuwing Huwebes, 8pm

I-text ang inyong "fearless view" sa 2910. Pipiliin namin ang pinakamagaling na sagot. Ang premyo linggo-linggo: Isang 21" color TV set!

I-type: INQTV <ang inyong sagot>, <buong pangalan>, <siyudad o probinsiya>, tapos ipadala sa 2910. Cut-off time: WEDNESDAY, 6 PM. Winner will be identified during the InqTV program: Thursday, 8pm, on ABC.

text 2910

Talamak na nakawan ng cellphone: Ano'ng solusyon?

Narito ang ilan sa inyong mga sagot.

kung nhuli i2loy ang kaso wag paaregio d man nbawi celfon ko mabawasan man ing salot at prwesyo

Sonny D. Catalan (Cainta Ebarle, Quezon City)

dpat ung mga nhuhuli n mga magnnkw inikilibot s buong lugar kung san d nknkaw ng cel at maytag s leeg n wag ako 2iran

Evlyn Crisbal (Palingon, Calamba City)

Cell phones top loot of choice

From page A1

CARTOON: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

the phone is, the cheaper human life becomes:

- Refusing to give up his phone, Jollibee crew member Richard Aumentado was shot dead in front of his sister, brother and girlfriend by two men whom he tried to fight off in April 2001.

Richard and company were on a jeepney plying Timog Avenue in Quezon City when the robbers boarded, one armed with a *sumpak* (improvised shotgun).

- In July that same year, Joan Pudadera, a bus driver's daughter and computer science student, was killed by two knife-wielding men in Quezon City who went after her phone. She had received the phone only a day earlier as a gift from her father on her 18th birthday.

Arrested three months later, one of the robbers confessed that he and a cohort had sold Joan's phone for only P2,000.

- In November 2003, Christian Reyes, a nephew of celebrity hairdresser Ricky Reyes, was driving down a busy street in Manila when two armed men blocked his lane, approached his car and demanded his phone.

He defiantly pushed back the hand of the one who tried to reach in through the car window, and for that he was shot twice with a .38-cal. revolver. His attackers fled the scene empty-handed.

Those who survived

One can get more disturbing details and a sense of scale from those who lived to tell their story:

- It took five men to get her phone, recalled "Grace," an employee of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

One afternoon in September 2003, she was the lone passenger on a jeepney traveling from Visayas Avenue to Edsa in Quezon City when five men got on. One immediately "sandwiched" her against the rear end of the seat, one hung by the *estribo*, serving as lookout, and the third held her "by the ankles." Two others sat a few feet away from her, apparently to keep watch on the elderly driver.

The man pressing against her produced a tiny blade, made an inch-long cut on the right side of her pants, and within seconds was able to push her phone out of the slit. She was then also carrying a handbag containing cash, but the robbers ignored it.

Grace wept, and was unable to sleep that night. She was so traumatized that she did not buy a new phone "until three weeks later."

- Peter Tabingo, a newspaper reporter, has lost four phones since January 2001.

The first was snatched while he was using it on a jeepney, the thief grabbing it through the window. The second was taken from him at gunpoint inside an FX taxi. The third he surrendered when "two men poked two 'Rambo' (jungle) knives at both sides of my ribs" as they sat on a jeepney, and the fourth he lost to a pickpocket on a bus.

In all these incidents, Tabingo said, he had his watch, wedding ring and wallet on him—but these were not touched.

- At the Clavio household in Manila, everyone except the father has been victimized.

The third and youngest child, then a political science student at the University of the Philippines in Manila, lost her phone in a jeepney holdup on Taft Avenue two years ago.

The middle child, an appliance store clerk, surrendered his phone to three men who boxed him in while he was waiting for a ride home at 2 a.m. on Edsa-Shaw Boulevard. "Give it to us or we will cut you down," they threatened him in Filipino. It was nearing Christmas in 2002.

The eldest child, who teaches at a university on Taft Avenue, lost her phone after leaving it on her desk in the faculty room sometime in March 2003.

"I was the last to join the 'club,' just last February," the mother, Tonette Clavio, told the INQUIRER. "I was on an FX taxi, heading home at around 7 p.m. after buying groceries at Robinsons Place (Manila), when four men got in. Two took the rear seats, the other two, the middle seats."

One declared the holdup a few minutes later: "Give us your cell phones! Hurry up, and don't stare at us!"

Tonette and the three other passengers—all women—complied, except one who accidentally dropped her phone without the men noticing it. But instead of picking up the phone to surrender it, she handed over her wallet, Tonette noted.

Microcosm of metropolis

Cell phone theft is a relatively new phenomenon that crime statisticians at the local precinct level tend to lump this together with other "petty" theft and robbery (T/R) cases involving jewelry, small cash, or shoplifted items.

But an effort to isolate phone T/R in the police records has been initiated in some areas in Metro Manila, like bustling Cubao District in Quezon City.

"The key to solving crime is not just to make as many arrests as possible but to have really accurate data. And this is what we've been doing since December 2003," said Supt. Benigno Durana Jr., the station commander overseeing Cubao and nine surrounding barangays.

Durana presented to the INQUIRER last week a pie chart that basically profiles the kind of cell phone thieves and robbers prowling Cubao, a commercial hub where the daytime population reaches 1.2 million daily. His turf, Durana said, could pass for a "microcosm" of Metro Manila.

From January to August this year, his station recorded 433 T/R cases, of which 135 cases (or 31.2 percent) involved cell phones. (Given the number of days—244—covering that eight-month span, it's as if a phone T/R case was reported in the area every 1.8 days, or almost every other day during the period.)

The 135 cases are broken down thus: 27.4 percent, snatching; 26.7 percent, *salisi* (or theft that relies on stealth); 20 percent, armed robbery-holdup in the streets; 16.3 percent, armed robbery-holdup in vehicles; 7.4 percent, pickpocket cases; and 2.2 percent, *bukas-kotse* (breaking into a parked vehicle).

That's theoretically six ways in which one can get mugged or killed for a cell phone.

Con games

But then, statistics do not convey the ingenuity felons can employ.

Durana recalled, for example, how a group of high school girls from Antipolo City were conned by an alleged show biz agent into going to Cubao to meet a TV talent manager.

The alleged agent, a woman, promised the girls roles as "extras" in a teen-oriented show and even treated them to a snack.

She suggested that the girls "upgrade" and swap their old cell phones for cutting-edge models with digital cameras "so they would look more '*sosyal*' during the interview" with the talent manager, Durana said.

"And so the recruiter, who offered to get them the latest models that same day, took all their phones—and never came back," he said. "The girls were crying when they showed up at my station."

Organized gangs resort to ruses and misdirection, especially when working big crowds, like what happened on Aug. 18 during the Bench "Understatement" fashion show at the Araneta Coliseum.

Durana said three homosexuals in their early 20s were arrested in the Big Dome that night, after three members of the audience separately reported to security guards how they lost their phones to the gang.

According to the complainants, the lead thief grabbed or picked their phones, his movement timed with the crowd's wild cheering. The leader then darted off with the phone and, after a few steps, "passed" the loot to an accomplice, who took off in another direction. The third gang member, pretending to be a spectator, "blocked" the victim's path when the latter tried to give chase.

Gangs like this prefer to work in big shows like concerts, where they can easily spot those carrying the more expensive models, Durana said, adding:

"When you expose your camera-phone to take a photo of the performance, you are making yourself a target.

"They put themselves in strategic positions and worm their way into the crowd. Then they will try to disorient you to allow their cohorts [who grabbed the phone] to escape."

This is why the usual perpetrators of cell phone T/R are young, agile persons. They can easily outrun the victims.

"I've seen some as young as 13, but rarely over 40," Durana said.

Ready buyers

Durana, who has a Ph.D. in security administration and who once headed the strategic information department of the UN-sanctioned Philippine police force sent to East Timor, offered a simple explanation for the rise of cell phone T/R.

"The offender has a lot of opportunities to enjoy the fruits of his crime. Within hours, he can dispose of the stolen item in pawnshops and second-hand stores. And there are ready buyers because everybody just wants to have a cell phone."

In his jurisdiction alone, there are up to 48 stores buying second-hand phones, Durana said.

Based on tactical interrogations, thieves and robbers may settle for as low as P1,000 to P2,000 when selling an old-model phone to a fence. Rarely are they paid beyond P5,000 even for a sophisticated camera-phone. The fence, in turn, will usually double the price when he offers the unit to an end-buyer.

Busy areas like intersections, where "disorder" tends to reign, provide the ideal quarry for snatchers or holdup men, Durana said. "They usually strike during rush hours and look for soft targets like women and young students, someone who looks tentative or confused, like a *probinsyano*, and who is unlikely to fight back."

But for law enforcers to simply match the criminals in terms of speed, ground coverage and vigilance in the streets may not be enough, Durana said.

"As in money laundering, you have to make the criminal's world smaller. The support structure [meaning the market for fenced goods] must be weakened," he added. *(Next: The figures don't tell the real story)*

IN THE KNOW

Tutok Kalawit

An attacker holding a bladed weapon inside his jacket (such as a fan knife or ice pick) wraps his arm around the victim's shoulders (as if the two are friends) and then sticks the hidden weapon in the victim's side. The attacker then brings the victim to an isolated place to divest him of valuables. The typical victims of this street crime are young professionals.

Ipit Kotse

Attackers usually work in pairs. Spotting a potential victim driving a car with unlocked doors, they will suddenly open the doors while the car is at full stop or at an intersection. Or, using a car of their own, they force the victim to maneuver his car to the side of the road or to a corner. One of the attackers will then jump out and force the victim to open his door. The attacker pushes the victim to the front passenger seat, then drives the car to a less populated area to collect all the valuables. Sometimes, the attackers also steal the car.

Estribo

Attackers prey on passengers inside a bus or jeepney. They usually position themselves near the *estribo* or vehicle's exit. Sometimes, attackers occupy the step and declare a holdup. Or sometimes they may just pick the pocket of passengers passing between them.

Bukas Kotse

The gang opens a parked car, usually using lock-picking tools, to steal the car stereo or valuable personal items left inside the car.

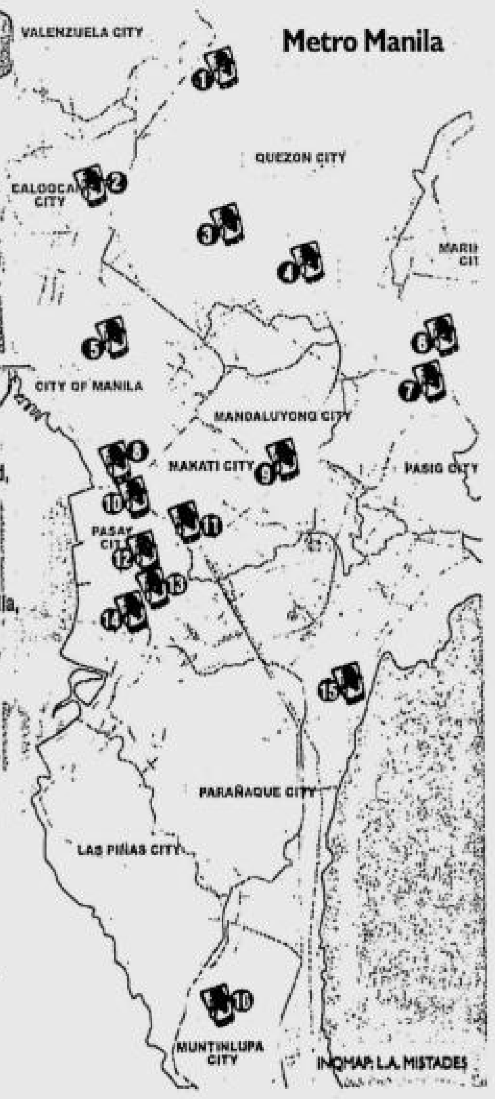
Snatching

The attacker grabs the victim's cell phone, bag, wallet or jewelry and then runs away. Sometimes, an attacker has an accomplice he passes the stolen items to. If he is caught, the items will no longer be found on him. This mode is very common in highly populated streets or dimly lit streets and alleys.

SOURCE: POLICE SUPT. JOSELITO ESQUIVEL, NCRPO

CELL PHONE
[illegible]

1. Talipapa, Quezon City
2. Monumento area, Caloocan City
3. Commonwealth Market in front of Kristong Hari, Quezon City
4. Aurora corner Edsa, Quezon City
5. University Belt, Manila
6. Pasig Public Market, Pasig City
7. Ortigas Extension, Barangay Rosario, Pasig City
8. Corner of Taft - Libertad, Pasay City
9. Edsa-Guadalupe going to JP Rizal St., Makati City
10. Corner of Taft - Buendia, Pasay City
11. South Super Highway between Magallanes and Pasay Road, Makati City
12. Corner of Taft - Pasay Rotonda, Pasay City
13. Baclaran, Parañaque City
14. Barangay Tambo along MIA Road, Parañaque City
15. MLQ Road near Jollibee, Lower Bicutan, Taguig
16. Alabang under the bridge area, Muntinlupa City



INQMAP: L.A. MISTADES

Stolen phones end up in shopping centers

From page A1

the phone's original box. The phone had been sent from the US," NuevaEspaña said.

In July, police caught a robber who admitted having sold cell phones to a stall in Greenhills. They were able to confirm the veracity of his tale, according to NuevaEspaña.

Blocking them

The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) knows that some stolen phones wind up in second-hand shops in commercial centers.

Engineer Danilo Cuenca, head of the NTC's One Stop Public Assistance Center (Ospac), said his office had received complaints about phones that stopped working after a week. The phones turned out to have been stolen, and the NTC had blocked them.

"Here's this case of a student. He came to us crying. He said he had saved hard for the phone, and then one week after buying it from a stall in Ever (Gotesco) on Commonwealth, it died," Cuenca said, adding:

"We found out that we had in fact blocked his phone. He had bought a stolen unit."

Police accompanied the student to the stall, where he got his money back, Cuenca said.

In another case, police accompanied a woman whose phone had stopped working to a shop at Riverbanks in Marikina City where she had bought it. She, too, got her money back.

Cuenca listed Ever Gotesco in Quezon City, Virra Mall in Greenhills, Harrison Plaza in Manila, and Riverbanks as among the places where stolen phones are landed.

Reconditioned

The Greenhills shopping center is home to scores of cell phone shops—its major come-on. Hundreds of people—rich and poor alike—go there daily to buy a phone.

Some shops offer repair and upgrade services; others, mobile phone accessories. Some can crack a locked phone, some swap phones.

Three kinds of phones are sold there—brand-new, second-hand and "reconditioned."

A reconditioned phone is assembled here but the parts come from abroad, according to a saleswoman. It is 20-50 percent cheaper than a brand-new one, but its quality is not guaranteed by the Bureau of Customs or by mobile phone manufacturers, she said.

(A ranking police official of the Eastern Police District bought a reconditioned phone in Greenhills two Sundays ago. He said it conked out after a day. He had it replaced.)

But police officers say a "reconditioned" phone is a misnomer.

And the NTC does not believe reconditioned phones come from abroad. "That is their explanation ... to get away with it. The truth is, these parts come from traded phones and the like," said Cuenca.

Drugs

How likely is it that some of the parts may have come from stolen phones? Very, he said.

A felon's first stop is his community. He offers the stolen phone to friends and neighbors, investigators and intelligence officers said.

At times, a neighbor knows a buyer who will pay a heftier sum.

This neighbor is sometimes the local drug pusher, according to Supt. Rodel Jocson, former head of the EPD's special action unit and now chief of the San Juan police.

The felon, who sometimes breaks the law to sustain an addiction, either trades the phone for drugs or receives a measly P1,000 to P3,000 for it, depending on the model, Jocson said.

An intelligence officer in Marikina said a Nokia 7650, a high-end cell phone, was sold for only P3,500 to P6,000 in a depressed area in the city.

Here are other prices: Nokia 3310, P1,700; Nokia 3210, P1,000; and Nokia 3200, P3,000.

Phone stories

Other brands are sold for incredibly low prices as well, but a Nokia unit is the easiest to dispose of, PO1 Ruel Alingasan said.

Alingasan's job includes profiling suspects and drawing information from them during interrogations.

He said a suspect once told him that someone was roaming the Tumana District in Marikina City to buy stolen phones. But police were never able to trace the person or prove his existence.

In March, 25-year-old Maricris de la Cruz lost her phone to robbers in Marikina. Police recovered it in a shop at the Sta. Lucia Mall in Pasig City. She identified the phone through its serial number.

Insp. Antonio Cruz, then Marikina's chief investigator, said an informant called police to say two men were selling a cell phone to the Rightstuff store in the mall.

After coordinating with the mall's security office and the Pasig police, SPO1 Reynaldo Tiburcio and PO1 Edward Beltran went to the shop and asked the saleswoman to let them inspect the phone.

"The cops insisted on seeing the mobile phone," Cruz said. "When our cops checked its serial number with that of the stolen unit, it matched."

A receipt showed that the store had bought the phone for P6,000 from a Ronald Rivera, a name police believed to be fictitious.

In the end, police charged the shop owner with violating the antifencing law. But the case was dismissed after the shop owner settled with the victim.

Dilemma

Here lies another police dilemma: Victims often drop a case once they get their phone back or receive a monetary equivalent. Once the case is dropped, fencing can no longer be proven.

"Buying second-hand phones without documents like a receipt or a purchase order encourages thieves and robbers. In a way, they are financing this crime," said Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas of the Marikina police.

SPO4 Jess Macalintal, a veteran investigator of the EPD, proposed that shops, pawnshops and other buyers be required to ask for a receipt when purchasing a second-hand cell phone.

METRO
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Desk Editors Cenon B. Bibe, Ester G. Dipasupil

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Off limits to 'cell' thieves

By Luige A. del Puerto

COMMERCIAL establishments in Greenhills in San Juan, and in the Ortigas Center in the cities of Pasig and Mandaluyong have agreed on points aimed at regulating the sale of cell phones. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

Stall owners are now required to provide police an inventory of second-hand cell phones on display, according to Sr. Supt. Jesus Jose Samson, former chief of the San Juan Police.

Businessmen and police officials met early this month to discuss measures that would help prevent stolen phones from inundating stalls in Greenhills, Ortigas Center and other commercial areas.

The problem is acknowledged, but largely undocumented.

"We are doing this to prevent robbers and thieves from selling their stolen goods here in Greenhills," Samson said in a phone interview.

Under the agreement, police will get the inventory every 15 days. It will list the brand name and serial number of each of the displayed phones as well as those that have been sold, Samson said.

Each stall must also get a certificate from the office of the police chief stating that all its phones have been acquired legally.

To make it more convenient for businessmen, the police chief will spend an hour or two in Greenhills to make himself available.

Reyes faces new murder raps

By Armand N. Nocum and Nelson F. Flores

WHEN it rains, it pours.

This time, the live-in partner of a suspected abductor of slain kidnap victim Betty Chua Sy has accused Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco, former Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., and several others of conspiring to kidnap Sy, and killing others allegedly involved in the crime.

In a supplemental complaint affidavit filed in the Office of the Ombudsman, Betty S. Arciaga also accused Reyes of committing graft when he allegedly ordered the release of P1 million for the capture of Zosimo Lauzon, whose participation in the crime had reportedly not been established.

Murder charges had earlier been lodged against Reyes before the Ombudsman by Rosalie Ramoso, a sister of Rogelio and Ronaldo Ramoso, suspected kidnappers killed by National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (NAKTF) personnel last year.

Also included in Arciaga's complaint were civic leader Teresita Ang See, Criminal Investigation, Detection Group head Supt. Jesus Versoza and GMA television reporter Jiggi Manicad, among others.

Arciaga said all those arrested, including her live-in partner Mariolito Demol, Mariolito's father, sister and uncle, never took part in Sy's murder, and that it was "immoral" and "dishonest" for Reyes and the other respondents to release the reward money for the arrest of mere fall guys.

Arciaga also accused Reyes of allegedly faking raids and staging kidnappings so he and his group could claim the credit when the crimes were solved.

There was a "pattern" in other NAKTF operations where they would recruit and then kill their agents, branding them as members of kidnapping syndicates, she alleged in her complaint.

Reyes, for his part, said the new charges against him "are preposterous and have shown how desperate my detractors are."

Claiming that his critics had "gone berserk," Reyes said the "incredible" charges made him wonder whether or not he should even respond to these.

"I am trying to do a good job, and all these people want is to demolish me," the DILG head said, adding that he expected "more incredible yarns" would be woven against him.

At the same time, Reyes noted that the continuing attacks were obviously intended for the benefit of members of the powerful congressional Commission on Appointments who are scheduled to deliberate on his appointment as Interior secretary.

Reyes vowed to find out the person(s) behind "this obvious demolition job."

"I'll exert every effort to find out who is behind this," Reyes said, although he refused to speculate who could be behind what he called a smear campaign.

Ang See, on the other hand, lashed back at Arciaga for "allowing" herself to be used by kidnapping syndicates.

There was no basis to accuse her of conspiracy when her only part in the Sy case was to attend a press conference where Demol was presented as a witness, she added.

"I was included in the complaint because I had refused to join a certain John Tiongco in a press conference where I was asked to hit Reyes," Ang See said.

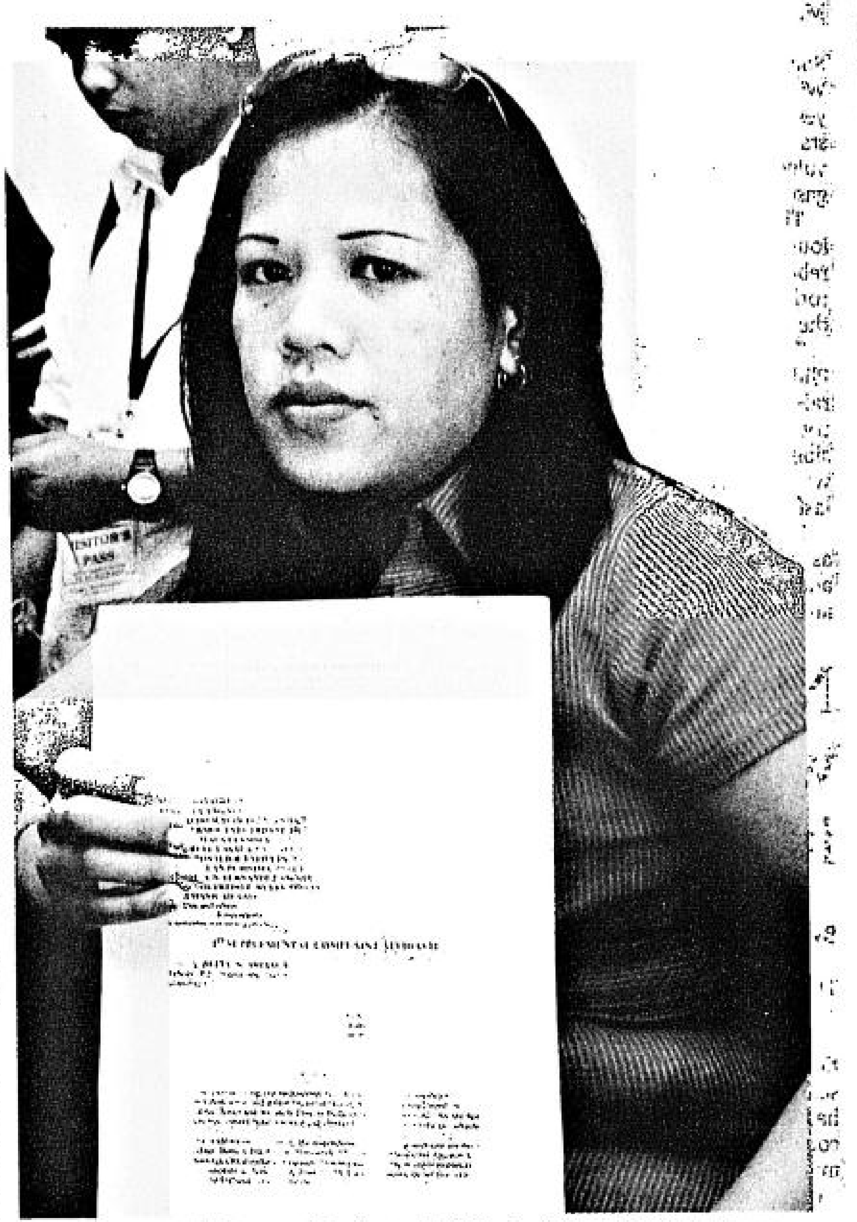
Earlier, Interior Undersecretary for administration and Reyes' spokesperson Melchor Rosales labeled as a "fabrication" all the criminal charges filed against his superior.

Rosales said the Ramoso brothers were responsible for the abduction of Gian Jethro Chua, who was rescued by NAKTF operatives on Dec. 30 in Calamba, Laguna.

The task force was then headed by Reyes.

The Office of the Ombudsman has yet to decide on the Ramoso case despite the failure of the complainant to show evidence of foul play in the slaying of the Ramoso brothers, including her claims that Rogelio was a NAKTAF agent, Rosales said. "He (Rogelio) is not a NAKTAF agent," Rosales stressed.

"This is part of a series of harassment charges against the Secretary," he said.



BETTY Arciaga holds the complaint sheet she filed in the Office of the Ombudsman against Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes and several others allegedly involved in the kidnapping and murder of Chinese-Filipino executive Betty Sy. RUDY ESPERAS

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Tight watch on gas stations in Metro

By Nancy C. Carvajal

HOW VULNERABLE to terrorist attacks are gasoline stations in Metro Manila?

This is what newly appointed Southern Police District Director Wilfrido Garcia wanted to find out yesterday when he ordered police station heads to assess the security vulnerability of Shell and Caltex gasoline stations in Metro Manila.

The written directive cited various intelligence reports that rebel groups would launch terrorist attacks from Sept. 15-21 in the metropolis.

The Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police have raised the alert level in the country, following a car bomb explosion that killed nine persons and wounded 170 others in Jakarta last week.

But Garcia dismissed the order as "routine communication," adding that he wanted to reiterate the order of National Capital Region Police Director Avelino Razon, ensuring precautions for the people's safety and the security of vital installations.

Asked to comment why Caltex and Petron were specifically mentioned in the directive, Garcia said: "Maybe because they are the biggest oil company players."

Garcia added that economic centers that are vulnerable to attacks are also well-guarded and subjected to regular checks to see if the necessary security measures are in place.

"We are instituting security surveys of possible targets based on intelligence reports," he stressed.

According to Garcia, the regular inspection of target areas is necessary to be able to detect the vulnerability of any vital installation.

Having the right information on the liabilities of identified possible targets is a big factor in carrying out countermeasures necessary to thwart possible attacks.

Chemical plant closed

By Luige del Puerto

THE CHEMICAL plant suspected of leaking sulfuric acid that downed around 25 students in Pasig City over the weekend has been shut down.

Mayor Vicente Eusebio revoked the permit of LMG Chemicals Corp., located inside the Chemphil Compound on Elisco Road, Barangay Kalawaan. The "cease and desist order" said the plant was an "imminent threat to life, health and property," the mayor said in his letter to LMG Chemicals Corp. General Manager Jose Fernandez.

Eusebio said he would not allow the plant to operate in his city again. The plant produces sulfuric acid, an ingredient used to make soap and acid battery.

On Friday, about 25 students from San Joaquin Elementary School appeared to have been affected by toxic fumes that allegedly came from the plant, leading school officials to send them to nearby hospitals for treatment.

Minor gas leaks had earlier been reported in the area, said Racquel Austria-Naciongayo, head of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO).

Beyond limit

On Thursday night, "erratic operations" had been noted, and sulfur dioxide emissions from the plant had gone beyond the allowable amount for three hours, she said. The plant replaced its acid circulating pump, and this might have triggered further leaks, according to the Cenro chief.

The Friday incident was the second time gas had leaked from the plant, Eusebio said. In August 2001, a housewife died, while 30 others were hospitalized after toxic fumes leaked from the plant.

Then-mayor Soledad Eusebio ordered its temporary closure. The environment department later found out that the plant failed to meet the environmental standards the department had set.

Preventive

Then-senator Robert Jaworski, former head of the Senate committee on ecology and environment, had recommended that the plant be permanently closed.

After the 2001 incident, LMG had promised to upgrade its anti-pollution system to prevent future leaks.

"Even if it gives us around P1 million in taxes, I'm closing it down," the mayor said.

Pearl Laurea, Chemphil spokesperson, said LMG Chemicals respects the decision of the city government to shut down its sulfur acid plant. She added that LMG would withhold comments on accusations that a gas leak from their plant was the culprit until it receives a report on the results of an investigation into the incident from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Multipartite Monitoring Team created to investigate cases of this nature.

NBI has 2 witnesses in Nida slay

By Leila B. Salaverria

THERE could still be hope for the Nida Blanca murder case.

National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco, said yesterday that the bureau has two possible witnesses who could bolster the case against main suspect Rod Strunk, husband of the slain movie actress.

Wycoco also lauded the recent Court of Appeals decision dismissing the petition of Strunk's lawyers to quash the murder case filed against him before the Pasig Regional Trial Court, saying the decision showed the case against Strunk was strong.

Blanca (Dorothy Jones in real life) was found dead on Nov. 7, 2001 inside her car parked at the Atlanta Center in San Juan, Metro Manila.

Her husband was earlier tagged by suspect Philip Medel as the mastermind behind her killing.

Strunk is now in the United States. The US District Court earlier junked the country's request for his extradition, but the Philippines is set to re-file a request for his extradition soon.

The first witness, a woman whose name the bureau is withholding, was able to describe the car that Strunk took during Blanca's wake.

The description reportedly tallied with that of the vehicle another witness said was used during surveillance operations conducted on the actress.

The second possible witness, a man, allegedly knew about the surveillance done on the actress days before her death.

Mall stalls not open for business

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FOUR hundred stalls have been shut down by the Caloocan City government because its owners had not paid taxes, or had conducted business without the necessary permits.

The move is part of City Hall's efforts to boost tax collections in the wake of P3 billion in debts the new administration is facing, said Mayor Enrico Echiverri

The stalls, all inside the Ever Gotesco Grand Central Mall, were closed on Friday after the owners failed to meet the requirements set by the notice of delinquency given to them a month ago, said Melanie Malaya of the business permits and licenses office.

Many of the stall owners had not paid their taxes since 1997, she added.

They also allegedly settled their permit fees with barangay officials, but these were not remitted to the city government.

Malaya said they would press charges against these officials if the allegations are true.

Owners of the closed stalls would be allowed to reopen their shops, but only after they pay their taxes and have applied for the necessary business permits.

Obando rites under threat

By Angela Blardony Ureta

FISHERMAN Ricardo "Boy" de Armas has lived in Obando all his adult life. He remembers a time when a rich variety of fish and crustacean thrived in the abundant rivers that surrounded Bulacan and Navotas, giving the area its reputation of being the primary fish port in Luzon.

Over the last two years, however, De Armas and his fellow fisher folk have been alarmed by the steady decline of their day's catch.

Their misfortune, he said, had been brought about largely by the creation of the now-controversial sanitary landfill in Barangay Tanza, Navotas. Residents of Obando, particularly those from Barangay Salambao, have long raised their concern about the foul odor and health hazards brought about by the dump that is, ironically, situated closer to their own neighborhood even if it is across the border from its source.

Frustration

Concern has given way to anger and frustration, as De Armas pointed irately to the 10-hectare dump as the source of filthy leachate that makes its way into the fishponds, polluting the waters and threatening to decimate their catch.

De Armas, who currently heads the Obando chapter of Pamalakaya, a national federation of fisherfolk, said they had complained about the nuisance for two years, but were often told by authorities that the dump was legal. Where was one supposed to go, he lamented.

De Armas and his group were among the more than 300 participants at the Sept. 1 celebration of the Global Day of Action Against Waste in Obando, where a coalition of environmental advocates, church-based groups, campus and civic organizations joined concerned residents of Bulacan and Navotas in calling for the dump's immediate closure.

Pleas

Through reenacting Obando's traditional Maytime fertility rites, protestors dramatized their pleas against the perils brought about by incineration and waste dumping. "For generations, childless couples have been coming to Obando to pray that they be granted children," said Cita Eulogio, spokesperson of the local senior citizens group and one of the principal organizers of the dance-protest. "Now, because of our exposure to the dangers brought by the dump, residents here could be infertile themselves!"

The "sayaw protesta" was led by popular actress-environmentalist Chin-Chin Gutierrez. "Apart from dramatizing the threat of barrenness to both man and nature, this mass action is an appeal for peace," said Gutierrez, who also heads the public relations committee of Mother Earth Foundation.

Serge Osmena's past revisited

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SEN. SERGIO Osmeña III should have come out with proof that some members in the Macapagal-Arroyo Cabinet were the "brightest crooks" close to Jose Pidal.

The senator was referring to First Gentleman Mike Arroyo as Jose Pidal.

Although Osmeña didn't mention the "brightest crooks" by name, he cited the appointments of former Ambassador Thelmo Cunanan to the Social Security System (SSS) and Bernardino Abes to the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), among others.

"That is the reason why these government corporations are losing billions in taxpayers' money," Serge Osmena said.

That was very unfair of Serge. Such a serious accusation should have been accompanied with proof.

But Serge didn't care about destroying other people's reputations, perhaps because he wanted to give way to his personal vendetta toward the Arroyos.

Mike Arroyo claims that Osmeña could not forget the defeat he suffered at the hands of Gloria during the 1998 vice presidential polls in Cebu, his own bailiwick.

Osmeña, according to Mike Arroyo, also could not get over the defeat of his candidate, Fernando Poe Jr., in the last presidential election. Osmeña campaigned actively for FPJ in Cebu, and yet the actor was trounced.

Why does Osmeña still insist that Arroyo is Jose Pidal when no less than the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory says that Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, now a congressman in Negros Occidental, signed as Jose Pidal?

Ironically, Iggy Arroyo won by a big margin over his opponent because he adopted "Jose Pidal" as his other name.

And since Osmeña has been spreading rumors about the Arroyos, the Arroyo camp is playing the senator's own game of gossip.

Psssst! According to a gossip, Iggy was once romantically involved with Serge's first wife.

"*Mukhang hindi matanggap ni Senador hanggang ngayon na kuya niya si Iggy* (It seems that the senator up to now can't get over the fact that Iggy was his first wife's boyfriend before him)," said a naughty underling of the Arroyos.

"Kuya" has a naughty context.

Haaay, Pinoy!

***

Last Saturday was World First Aid Day of the Red Cross.

The Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) held its "First Aid Olympics" among its officials and employees with the participation of some outsiders.

The First Aid Olympics emphasized the need for giving immediate treatment to victims of accidents, drowning, strokes or heart attacks before they are taken to the hospital.

PNRC Gov. Lourdes Casas-Quezon said their target is to produce first aid volunteers in every home or office because untoward things happen in these unlikely places.

My staff at "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" and I were the other participants in the PNRC mini-Olympics.

We were the only outsiders in the first aid competition. And we learned first aid, from bandaging wounds to reviving an accident victim through mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Most PNRC officials and employees are volunteers, meaning they don't get paid or are paid nominally, if at all.

But I've never seen such dedication among people who save lives during emergencies.

The next time you meet a Red Cross volunteer, smile at him or her. That's the least you can do to a person who gives of himself or herself in the service of saving lives. He or she does that because he loves his fellowmen.

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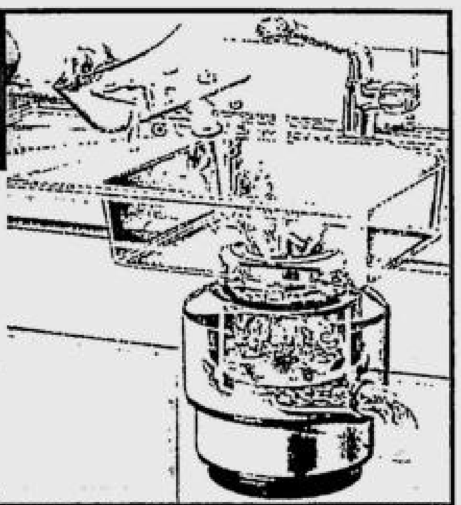

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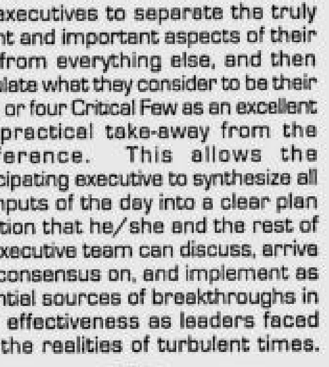

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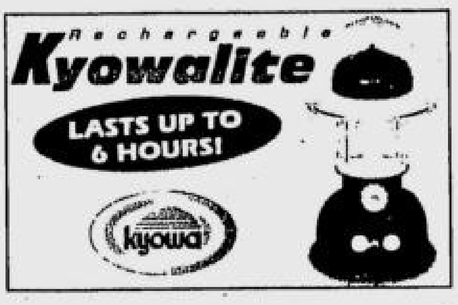
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Best-of-3 for Ateneo, La Salle on

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT'S A CRUCIAL game that will certainly be added to the storied rivalry of the Ateneo Eagles and the De La Salle Archers in the UAAP basketball tournament.

The Eagles and the Archers dispute the No. 2 slot and the second twice-to-beat incentive in their own Final Four duel when they clash at 3:30 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum.

The defending champion Far Eastern Tamaraws claimed the first twice-to-beat bonus by finishing on top of the eliminations with an 11-3 slate. They will clash with fourth-seed University of the East Warriors in the other Final Four pairing on Thursday.

FEU grabbed the No. 1 spot at the expense of Ateneo, which dropped into a tie for second at 10-4 with La Salle.

While they split their two games in the eliminations, today's odds favor the Archers, who are on a six-game roll.

"I'm confident with the condition of my players. We're really in great shape. It's going to be a great competition," said coach Franz Pumaren of the Archers, who emerged the top offensive team this season with a 40.2-percent shooting clip.

While La Salle showed vast improvement, Ateneo fizzled after an amazing seven-game sweep of the first round. The Eagles' erratic performances were reflected in a 3-4 win-loss record in the second round.

Even coach Sandy Arespacochaga admits the Eagles, who were routed by FEU, 65-51, at the close of the eliminations, are the underdogs today.

"We are coming off a Saturday game, so we only have two days to rest and prepare. And there's the fact that La Salle is on a winning streak," he said.

And it's a streak that La Salle mainly owes to Mac Cardona. Based on numbers released by PLDT Vibe and Soho Connect, UAAP's official statistician, Cardona is running second in the MVP race.

The 6-foot-1 workhorse, who ranked behind FEU's Arwind Santos (13.5 ppg, 10.3 rpg), is the league's top scorer with a 15.8 point average. He also tallied 6.1 rebounds, finished seventh in assists (2.6 apg) and ninth in steals (1.3 spg).

But while La Salle only has Cardona in the top 10, Ateneo has three MVP candidates on its roster. JC Intal ranked third (11.9 ppg, 8.3 rpg), assist leader LA Tenorio at fourth (10.4 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 5.2 apg) and Paolo Bugia at ninth (10.1 ppg, 7.5 rpg).

Ateneo is also the second best three-point shooting team—led by Chris Tiu and Magnum Membrere—with a 24.7-percent average. La Salle brings up the rear at 20.1 percent.

La Salle, though, has the league-best record in steals at 7.7, while Ateneo ranked sixth at 5.4.

In their first-round meeting, Ateneo rallied from a 15-point deficit to escape with a 75-72 win. But La Salle exacted revenge in the second round with an emphatic 72-61 victory.

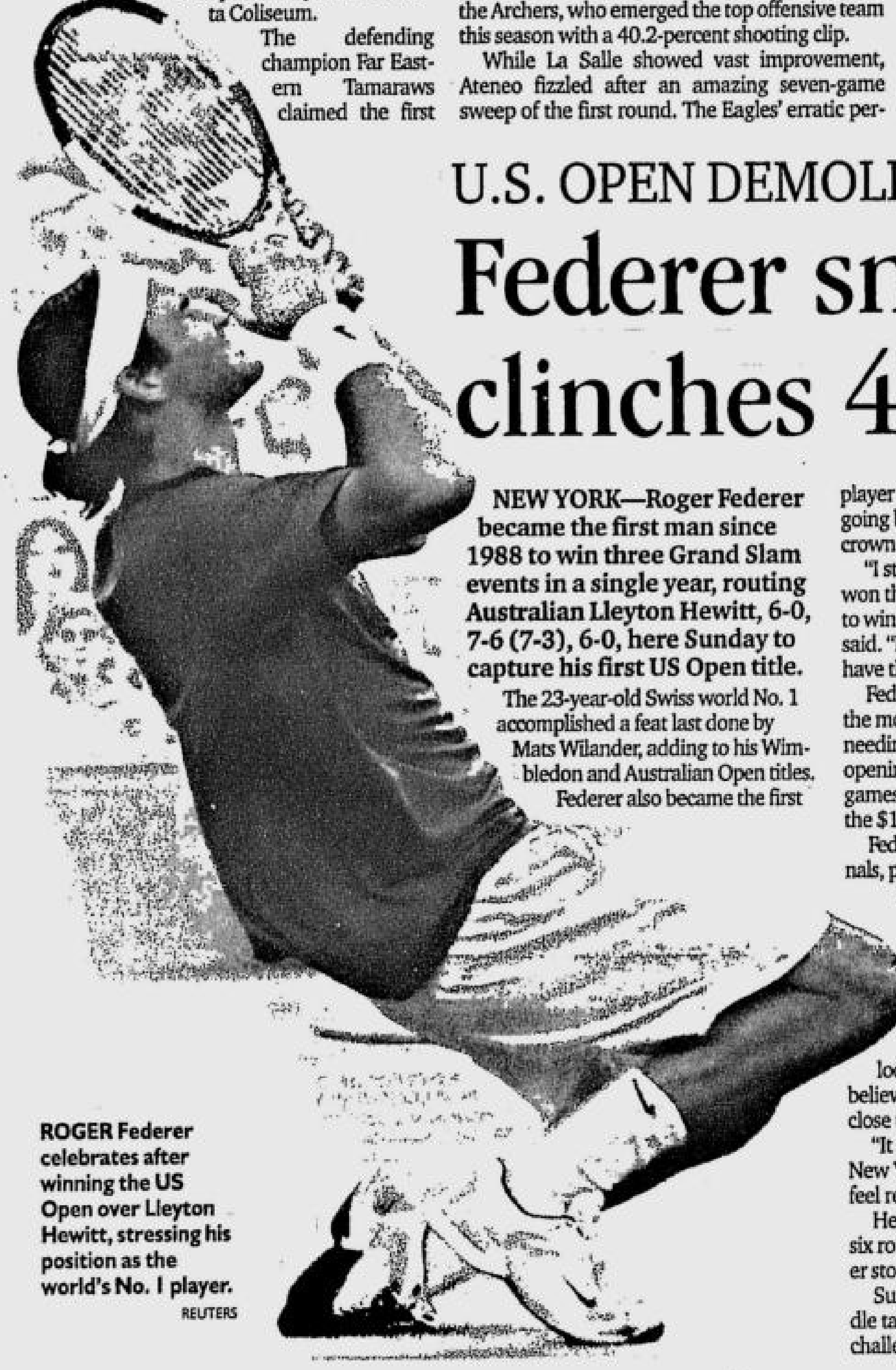
The initial Final Four meeting between Ateneo and La Salle is set this Sunday.

STANDINGS	W	L
FEU	11	3
Ateneo	10	4
La Salle	10	4
UE	8	6
UP	7	7
Adamson	5	9
UST	4	10
NU	1	13

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
1:30 p.m.—Ateneo vs UP (Jrs)
3:30 p.m.—La Salle vs Ateneo (Seniors Playoff)

U.S. OPEN DEMOLITION

Federer smothers Hewitt, clinches 4th 'Slam' title



ROGER Federer celebrates after winning the US Open over Lleyton Hewitt, stressing his position as the world's No. 1 player.
REUTERS

NEW YORK—Roger Federer became the first man since 1988 to win three Grand Slam events in a single year, routing Australian Lleyton Hewitt, 6-0, 7-6 (7-3), 6-0, here Sunday to capture his first US Open title.

The 23-year-old Swiss world No. 1 accomplished a feat last done by Mats Wilander, adding to his Wimbledon and Australian Open titles.

Federer also became the first player to win his first four Slam finals, going back to his 2003 Wimbledon crown.

"I still can't believe I have done this, won three Grand Slams out of four, and to win the US Open is amazing," Federer said. "Not in my wildest dreams would I have thought I would win a US Open."

Federer showed why he has become the most dominant player in the game, needing just 18 minutes to take the opening set and winning the first eight games of the championship match at the $17.8-million Grand Slam event.

Federer, who has won his past 11 finals, picked up $1 million in prize money.

He clinched the triumph with a forehand winner that Hewitt couldn't reach and then fell to his knees, rolled over on his back and covered his face with his hands.

"I was laying on my back and looking up at the lights and I couldn't believe it. Like every Slam I win, I was close to tears," Federer said.

"It seems to me that if you can handle New York you can handle anything. So I feel real good right now."

Hewitt had not lost a set in the first six rounds of the tournament but Federer stopped him dead in his tracks.

Sunday's stunning victory will rekindle talk that Federer might be able to challenge Pete Sampras' record of 14 Grand Slam titles.

Asked if there was anyone who could have beaten Federer the way he was playing in the final Grand Slam of the season, Hewitt said, "I don't think anyone in this tournament . . . maybe Pete Sampras.

"After Pete left, Roger has come in and that could help tennis in the big picture. He is still only 23 years old and I think he is definitely going to be one of the greats."

Federer used his punishing forehand and his superb serve-and-volley game to smother Hewitt and winning 31 of 35 net points in the one-hour, 51-minute match.

"To come out and win the first set, 6-0, was a perfect start," Federer said.

Federer fired 11 aces, hammered 40 winners and converted seven of 13 break-point opportunities.

This was the first loss in a Grand Slam final for Hewitt, who was seeking to regain the US Open title he won in 2001.

Hewitt said Federer's forehand is his best weapon.

"When he is on fire with his forehand like that, it is hard to get it to his backhand," Hewitt said.

Hewitt failed to win his third career Grand Slam title but he took home $750,000 in second-place money.

The Aussie former world No. 1's strong showing this summer earned him the US Open series title. *AFP*

Pasa issue goes to POC arbitration

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee will soon take up the leadership issue now gripping the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association.

POC president Celso Dayrit made this assurance yesterday even as Chito Ilagan, who was replaced as Pasa head by Olympian Mark Joseph last Saturday, scheduled a press conference today to shed light on what he claims was an illegal process taken by nine of 12 regional directors.

Dayrit said he would raise the Pasa issue before the POC board but it "would most likely be referred to the arbitration committee."

The panel, headed by sailing's Claudio Altura, also handles the leadership tug-of-war in basketball, softball and archery.

Also installed along with Joseph during a meeting held in Cebu City were Akiko Thomson as secretary general and Ral Rosario as technical committee chair.

Ilagan insisted, however, that the procedure the regional directors used in ousting him was illegal. He added his group would elect its own set of officers this Saturday in a meeting to be held in San Pablo City.

In a related development, Chito Rivera, who was also replaced as secretary general, reported that his staff was not allowed to enter the Pasa office yesterday at the Philsports upon instruction by an official of the Philippine Sports Commission close to Joseph's group.

Elorde seeks rematch, offers Arce $100,000

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

INSISTING that Juanito Rubillar had been "robbed" of a victory, promoter Gabriel "Bebot" Elorde Jr. has offered a whopping $100,000 purse for World Boxing Council junior flyweight champ Jorge Arce of Mexico to meet the Filipino in a title rematch on Dec. 8 at the Elorde Sports Center in Parañaque.

"I would even request that World Boxing Council president Jose Sulaiman be present during that event as WBC representative," Elorde stressed.

Elorde, who also manages Rubillar, maintained that his ward had the better of Arce for most of the rounds and was the aggressor all throughout the 12-round fight held last Sept. 4 in Tijuana, Mexico.

ARCE: Split verdict

Arce won the fight by split decision with one judge giving him a lopsided 119-108 verdict. The two other judges had identical 115-112 scores.

Elorde said the 119-108 score came from Roy Ovalle, the same judge who did not follow an order by referee Ruben Carrion that a point be deducted from Jesus Rodriguez for a foul blow in his bout with Carlos Escobedo in San Antonio, Texas, on June 21, 2002.

Ovalle made matters worse by deducting a point from the score of Escobedo. The scoring lapse by Ovalle resulted in a draw verdict.

World Amateur hopefuls resume work at Cangolf

By Musong R. Castillo

CANLUBANG—The 10-man pool seeing action in the evaluation series for the Philippine World Amateur golf team will be pruned down to four players, who will embark on a one-month training program starting next week.

The National Golf Association of the Philippines decided on this yesterday on the eve of the resumption of the 144-hole series at the Canlubang layout here today with Juvic Pagunsan trying to clinch an outright slot to the team that goes to Puerto Rico next month.

Three players will make up the Philippine World Am team, but the NGAP will include one more in the training as an alternate member who will be picked this Friday.

Meanwhile, Jayvee Agojo puts a re-tooled swing to the test starting today when she joins the ladies' side of the series.

Agojo does not have a chance of clinching an outright slot to the women's team and could only make it to Puerto Rico as a captain's pick.

Anya Tanpinco leads the race by six over Carmelette Villaroman with a 310 total.

After Canlubang, the men's and women's hopefuls play Aguinaldo, Villamor and the Manila Golf courses in the next three days.

Pagunsan cracked par in two of the first four rounds and leads Marvin Dumandan by three strokes with a 285 total after playing at the Riviera, Malarayat, Tat Filipinas and Alabang.

Asian MTB lures 15 countries

THE BEST terrain riders from 15 countries will take centerstage on Oct. 7-10 in the 10th Asian mountain bike championships in Puerto Princesa City in Palawan.

Entries from South Korea, Japan, Nepal, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Thailand, Iran and Hong Kong have already confirmed their participation in the event sanctioned by the Union Cycliste Internationale and supervised by the Asian Cycling Confederation.

Mayor Edward Hagedorn of the host city and PhilCycling president Bert Lina, co-chairs of the organizing committee, jointly announced that preparations to ensure a successful staging of the event have been completed well ahead of schedule.

Hagedorn, who has transformed Puerto Princesa City into the country's newest sports mecca, said the venues for the cross-country and downhill events in Sitio Magarwak, Barangay Sta. Lourdes, are now ready for competition.

Lina has been monitoring progress on the technical side of the event as head of PhilCycling, or the Integrated Cycling Federation of the Philippines.

In the National Open, competitions will be conducted in track at the Amoranto Velodrome on Oct. 3, road (massed start) in Tagaytay City on Oct. 4, individual time trial in Batangas on Oct. 5.

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SINGH: Still on a roll AP

Hot Singh steals thunder from Weir

OAKVILLE, Ontario—Now that he is No. 1 in the world, Vijay Singh figures the best way to stay there is to continue his amazing golf and to play better than everyone in the field that week.

That's what happened in the Canadian Open—and it made Singh the slightest bit sad.

He would have preferred the last guy standing between him and the trophy been anyone but Mike Weir.

Singh spoiled what was shaping up as a raucous celebration Sunday, overcoming a two-shot deficit with three holes to play and beating Weir on the third hole of a playoff, robbing Canada of its first national champion in 50 years—on the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Open, no less.

"I really do feel for Mike," Singh said after closing with a birdie on the final hole for a 2-under 69 that forced a playoff when Weir missed a 10-footer for birdie in the final group. "That was the one person I didn't want to beat. He wanted to win this tournament so bad, but that's the way golf goes.

"Somebody has to win."

Lately, that person inevitably is Singh.

Replacing Tiger Woods at No. 1 in the world ranking last week might have seemed like a crowning achievement, but now the 41-year-old Fijian is primed to do so much more.

He won for the seventh time this year, joining Woods (twice), Jack Nicklaus (twice), Tom Watson and Johnny Miller as the only players to have won that often in a single season since 1970.

Better yet, Singh earned $810,000 to push his season earnings to a few dollars short of $8.7 million—and is closing in on Woods' record of $9.1 million set in 2000. *AP*

Annika returns, wins 53rd title

BROKEN ARROW, Oklahoma—Annika Sorenstam was more rejuvenated than rusty after a month off "chilling" in Lake Tahoe and cleaning up after Florida hurricanes.

The Swedish star won her fifth LPGA Tour title of the year and 53rd overall Sunday, closing with a 1-under 70 for a four-stroke victory over South Korea's Shi Hyun Ahn in the John Q. Hammons Hotel Classic.

"I can't play every week because I get worn out and I don't play so well," Sorenstam said. "So I think you have to listen to your body. If you're tired, you're tired, and if you're not keep on going. I needed a break. The timing was right. I do have a life outside golf, too, and once in a while it's nice to do other things."

"I did practice for a like a week, so I wasn't totally rusty coming in here. It just shows that you just can't practice and practice and play and play."

Coming off a victory Aug. 8 in the European tour's HP Open in Sweden, she finished at 9-under 204 on the Cedar Ridge Country Club course and earned $150,000 for her seventh worldwide title of the year and 65th overall.

"I'm very proud of my career," Sorenstam said. "Sometimes I ask myself why this is happening to me. I work hard and I enjoy what I do.

"I think sometimes, 'Just take it, enjoy it and be thankful.' If I analyze it to much it might not happen. I don't look at history books and say I'm going to do that."

Ahn, also second to Sorenstam in the LPGA Championship, closed with a 69. Candie Kung (69) was 3 under, and Mi Hyun Kim (67) and Heather Bowie (69) followed at 2 under.

"The golf course was really hard," Ahn said. "There are a lot of things I did good, but there are more things that I made a mistake on and could be improved."

Joanne Morley, in the final group with Sorenstam, pulled within a stroke of the lead after opening with two birdies. *AP*

ANNIKA Sorenstam celebrates her victory. AP

Harrington reigns by 3

GUT LARCHENHOF, Germany—Padraig Harrington came from behind to claim a memorable three-shot victory in the German Masters and at the same time gave Ryder Cup captain Bernhard Langer the perfect boost for next weeks contest at Oakland Hills Country Club.

The Irishman became the third Ryder Cup team member in the last three weeks to win on the European Tour, following Miguel Angel Jimenez, who won the BMW International Open in Germany and Luke Donald who took the European Masters in Switzerland.

Harrington's win came after he had been six shots behind with 16 holes to play. The Irishman, who underwent laser surgery on his eye last week, suffered a shoulder knock here. *AFP*

Mark unscathed after 4th round

FILIPINO International Master Mark Paragua remained undefeated after four rounds in the 2nd Alushta GM Tournament in Alushta, Crimea, Ukraine.

The 20-year-old Paragua, seeking his third and final grandmaster result, beat WGM/IM Olga Alexandrova of Ukraine in the third round and then drew with IM Dmitry Tishin of Ukraine to push his total to 2.5 points on three draws and one win.

The 16-player tournament requires a participant to score at least 11 points to gain a GM result. Unlike in the 1st Alushta GMT, Paragua can't avail of the 8.5/12 rule of FIDE (World Chess Federation) as he will only face the third GM (Russian Veniamen Shtyrenkov) in the field in the 14th round. *Marlon Bernardino*

Mariano decries 'unfair seeding' of Paragua

By Marc Anthony Reyes

GRANDMASTER Nelson Mariano II yesterday denied having made a threat to back out of the national chess championships but declared nonetheless that he will ask his fellow GMs to act against what he described as "unfair seeding" given to GM-candidate Mark Paragua.

Mariano said he is speaking on behalf of other players who doesn't have the same foreign exposure as Paragua, who was seeded by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines to the Chess Olympiad next month in Majorca, Spain.

"They are depriving other players of a chance to be in the Olympiad which doesn't come often," said Mariano.

Mariano said he will discuss with GMs Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor on their plans if the NCFP indeed gives automatic seeding to Paragua to the Olympiad.

Meanwhile, Florencio Campomanes, honorary chair of Fide (World Chess Federation), yesterday denied news reports (not in the INQUIRER) that he talked about reconciliation within the NCFP. "I have never talked about it, contrary to news reports. Neither with Mat Defensor nor with Go Teng Kok. And certainly not with alleged NCFP culprit (Sammy) Estimo," said Campomanes.

Rules are rules

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE RULE was to hold a qualifying to choose our Olympic bets in chess. Why it's been changed last weekend defies logic, if not common sense.

That's the trouble with us sometimes and that's why we cannot advance progressively, consistently. We love to change what has already been agreed upon. We love to break our word for the flimsiest, if not silliest, of reasons.

Just to suit our own taste, feed on our pride?

We never learn.

Our forthcoming stint in the Chess Olympiad in Majorca, Spain set sometime next month is a testament to our continuing national commitment to world chess for more than half a century now. We've scored modest gains in this biennial meet. We intend to score some more.

Before we get there this year, our chess officials had earlier agreed to subject our players to a tournament that will select the top four finishers to form the national team to Spain.

GM Eugene Torre said, OK fine, let's all go to the qualifying tournament.

GM Joey Antonio said, OK fine, let's all go to the qualifying tournament.

GM Nelson Mariano said, OK fine, let's all go to the qualifying tournament.

Even GM-candidate Mark Paragua, the hottest player this side of the chess globe, also said, OK fine, let's all go to the qualifying tournament.

In short, even those who are supposed to be seeded, as has been done in the past, never objected to the qualifying tournament in the spirit of unity and sportsmanship.

And then this: A change in the rules stipulating that Paragua would be seeded to the national team because he could not join the qualifying tournament. Paragua is in Europe hunting for the last norm to complete his GM title.

I support Paragua's mission to become a full GM. Always did. In my own little way, I had done my own bit in pushing Paragua's noble deed to seek every chess player's dream.

But then, it ends there.

I am not in favor of seeding Paragua just because he will not be around during the qualifying tournament.

Paragua might contend he had his European schedule made up ahead of the Olympic qualifying, but still, that is no reason for our officials to seed him outright.

A rule is a rule is a rule.

Paragua chose to chase his GM title, let him be.

Paragua chose to abandon the qualifying, let him be.

As always, let's wish him all the luck.

Without a doubt, Paragua would be an asset in Spain. With his talent and newly found second GM result in Ukraine, he could gun up a campaign that might yet put the Philippines in a pedestal, the way he did when he emerged the most bemedalled athlete in the last SEA Games in Vietnam.

But that is no reason, though, to bend the rules just to accommodate him. That'd be an insult to the nation's intelligence, a move so unfair it degrades the stature of our other players, who, because of the Paragua case, might be also aching for outright slots to the squad and would be justified if they did so.

We don't talk here about who is the best, who holds a GM title or who has the highest rating because, if we do that, the truth of the matter is, Paragua isn't a GM yet and Torre, Antonio and Mariano are. Just because Paragua has just won overseas and, in the process, earned a second GM result doesn't mean we have to reward him with a berth over and above the rest of the field. No. That'd be retrogression of the first degree.

We talk here about adherence to the rules, *palabra de honor*. We overhaul rules faster than GMA changes her mind, we'll be making two steps backward and one step forward all the time.

We grant that Paragua has the highest Elo rating of 2550 or something as against Antonio's 2530 and Torre's 2519; Mariano is 2500 or something.

This is not about rating, or current achievements scored abroad.

This is about rules, period.

Now if we'd be stubborn enough as to change the rules instead of stick to the rules, then I think we should also seed both Torre and Antonio for the single reason that the two had had enormous Olympic experience. Mariano, even though he is now a GM, hasn't had much Olympic experience and yes, Bong Villamayor, the other GM, has quit the qualifying to concentrate on his new job as chess coach of Singapore.

For the record, Antonio has been an Olympian since 1988 and owns the best Board 2 record ever for the country since 1990.

And Torre? Well, you'll be surprised—pleasantly, that is—that he's been an Olympian since 1970. And since 1972, he's been our Board 1 player—with consistent distinction at that! Can anyone top that—30 straight years as the country's Board 1 player?

Still, because rules are rules, Torre joined the 2002 round robin championship for that year's Olympiad qualifying and, lo and behold, he went on to top the 2002 eliminations for the Turkey Olympics.

C'mon, fellas, are we playing Alekhine Defense or the Ruy Lopez?

Make up your mind.

***

FASTBREAK. Comebacking Gerry Peñalosa, the former world flyweight champion, will fight Thai Samingkad Chautipol on Sept. 19 at the Mandaue Sports Complex in Cebu. An interesting bout in the undercard will pit Malcolm Tuñacao against Bernard Uclus. Senators Jinggoy Estrada and Lito Lapid, Gov. Chavit Singson, Kosuke Washio, Yasuo Matsuoka and RD Pawnshop will sponsor the fights.

SPORTSWATCH

SSC-Cavite rules Espiritu Cup

PBL-BOUND San Sebastian College-Cavite nosed out Homer Cagers, 67-66, last Saturday to bag the NBDL-Danny Espiritu Cup basketball crown at the SSC-Cavite gym in Cavite City. Axel Doruelo's jumper in the last 10 seconds spelled the difference in the tight contest which saw Mayor Toti Paredes' Cavite boys outgun their rivals, 22-11, in the final quarter. "I give credit to the boys. *Lumaban hang-gang huli,*" said SSC-Cavite coach Egay Macaraya. "We now look forward to a stint in the PBL." Homer Go's charges led after three quarters, 55-45, and were still ahead until Doruelo came up with the winning basket. Mark Yee led SSC-Cavite with 16 points. He was named most valuable player of the tourney organized by NBDL president Ted Magno in honor of sportsman/businessman Danny Espiritu. Espiritu and Magno awarded the trophies donated by Air 21 to the winners and runners-up.

Luzon outsprints Primero

DAGUPAN CITY—Tour veteran Bernard Luzon outsprinted his breakaway partner and provincemate Michael Primero in the last 200 meters to win the "Mayor Bejie S. Lim Cup" last Sunday and pocket the P7,000 top prize plus trophy. Luzon finished the 185-kilometer race, which traversed the key barangays of the city, in four hours, 49 minutes and 42 seconds. Primero, three seconds off the pace, received P5,000 plus trophy. Virgilio Muena, also from Nueva Ecija, came in third, two minutes and 23 seconds adrift Primero, to bag P4,000 plus trophy. Local boy Sherwin Carrera landed fourth and earned P3,000. Emil Pablo of Umingan, Pangasinan, finished fifth worth P2,000. The bikefest was sponsored by the city government led Mayor Benjie Lim and Vice Mayor Alvin D. Fernandez. Meanwhile, Bureau of Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr., who was the guest of honor and speaker of the bikefest, said the next Pangasinan bike race, which will bed dubbed Commissioner's Cup, will be held on Pangasinan Day Nov. 13 this year.

GRAND PRIX CHARMERS: Michelle Bumgarner (left) and Gaby de la Merced of the eStandard Insurance Racing Team recently ruled the Formula Toyota Cup Race 7. Bumgarner then tied Ivan Carapiet's finish time as De la Merced trailed third in Race 8 of the 2004 PCSO Grand Prix at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Early TRAP build-up for 2008 Olympics

THE BEIJING Olympic Games is four years away, but as far as Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP) president Tom Carrasco is concerned, the training of his wards begins now. Carrasco hopes to see the first Filipino triathlete compete in Beijing and the immediate target is to give prospective RP bets all the chances to earn points and improve their international rankings. Only the top 50 male and female triathletes as ranked by the International Triathlon Union (ITU) will qualify for the 2008 Olympic Games. "ITU Olympic-qualifying races are held mostly in Europe and the US. Triathletes can also earn points for their ITU ranking from regional qualifying and regional championships like the Asian Triathlon championship where the champion automatically makes it to the Olympic Games," said Carrasco. "Our own Subic International Triathlon is an example of a race where one can earn points," added Carrasco, who went to the recent Athens Olympics on his own to watch and pick up things he could from the triathlon event there.

Ampalayo cops Junior chess plum

THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD Ace Ampalayo of Cainta Catholic College downed Might Timothy Noche in the sixth and final round to rule the junior division in the fifth series of 2004 Milo Checkmate at the J and F Divino Building in Quezon City. Eleven-year-old Adrian Co of Xavier School topped the Under 12 bracket while his brother Kenneth took the Under 10 section. Satur Ephrem Arcilla won the Under 8 class.

New program not just for BAP and PBA

By June Navarro

BASKETBALL'S major stakeholders must be involved in the long-term national team program being proposed by the PBA for it to be successful at all.

Commissioner Noli Eala of the Philippine Basketball Association yesterday batted for the inclusion of the PBL, UAAP and NCAA when the league joins forces with the Basketball Association of the Philippines in laying out the mechanics for the formation of a strong national squad.

"The success of any program lies in the cooperation of these organizations, so we in the PBA deem it only proper to keep them involved and informed," said Eala.

Eala added he would discuss the developments between the PBA and the BAP with representatives of the PBL, UAAP and NCAA immediately after meeting with BAP secretary general Graham Lim this week.

Eala and Lim are expected to map out a viable basketball program that could possibly lead to an Olympic stint in 2008—which would be a first for the country after the 1972 Munich Games.

The PBA is also eyeing the Asian Basketball Confederation championship next year as a springboard for the RP team's participation in the elite World Championship.

"We will not go far ... if we continue to be divided," said Eala.

Lim has expressed willingness to join hands with the PBA and vowed to buckle down to work the moment he arrives from Singapore with the national women's team.

One of the things to be discussed by the BAP and the PBA is the signing of a fresh memorandum of agreement with respect to the formation of the national team for the ABC and the Asian Games.

Lim said the old MOA between the pro league and the BAP expired after the 2002 Busan Asian Games. Under the MOA, the PBA took the responsibility of preparing and fielding its stars to the Asian Games.

Cebuano cagers survive Taguig

TRIBU Sugbu (Cebu Tribes) banked on the last-quarter heroics of Dante Elim and Marvin Mercado to trim Forward Taguig, 77-76, and tighten its hold on the South division lead Sunday in the NBC (National Basketball Conference) national championship at the C.P. Tinga gym in Taguig.

After the Cebuanos were held scoreless in the first four minutes of the final half, Elim and Mercado combined for 11 of their team's last 15 points to give the Tribes their 10th win in 13 games.

"We needed this win to avoid any complications in the (South division) team standings," said coach Al Solis. "*Malaking tulong din ito para sa* morale *ng mga bata.* (This will help boost the boys' morale)."

Taguig threatened at 76-77 on Elbert Alberto's fadeaway shot with 28 seconds left and still had a chance to win after the Cebuanos committed an inbound error. But Ogie Gumatay muffed his three-point attempt at the buzzer.

Taguig suffered its seventh loss in 13 games in the tournament.

The scores:

CEBU 77—Concha 13, Tangkay 13, Elim 11, Mercado 9, Grijaldo 8, Dela Rosa 8, Lanete 5, Bucao 4, Piodo 4, Sanders 2.

TAGUIG 76—Alberto 14, Robillos 12, Roldan 11, Ricafuerte 9, Villar 9, Reyes 8, Magsambol 6, Gumatay 5, De Gula 2.

Quarters: 22-23, 44-42, 58-59, 77-76

Bukidnon's Holy Cross XI tops U-14 tilt

HOLY Cross High School whitewashed Plantation Elementary School, 7-0, Saturday to rule the Bukidnon leg of the Red Ribbon Football Fiesta Under-14 tournament at the Camp Phillips Football Plaza in Del Monte Plantation.

Princeton Josue scored a hat trick to put Holy Cross beyond reach right in the first half. The 13-year-old striker clinched the tournament's most valuable player award and a one-year scholarship, courtesy of the Bukidnon Football Association and Red Ribbon Bakeshop, at Holy Cross.

Louis Madrio and John Dalaota were the side's other scorers in the final match of the month-long event.

The match was preceded by festivities.

The countrywide Red Ribbon Football Fiesta, the Philippine Football Federation's Under-14 tournament, was organized in Bukidnon by Bufa president Ramon Manlunas and general secretary Franz Rizon and supported by Marco Lorenzo, senior vice president for Mindanao operations of Del Monte Phils. Inc.

Naascu Final 4 under way

UNIVERSITY of Manila, the league's longtime No. 1, takes on Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila even as St. Clare College of Caloocan squares off with Centro Escolar today at the start of the Naascu men's basketball Final Four at the Makati Coliseum.

The Hawks, who swept their 16 games in the elimination to boost their win record to 68 in the last four years, are looking to extend their unbeaten run in the Final Four, a twin best-of-three series.

The PLP Eagles, who finished the eliminations with a 10-6 record, are the definite underdogs in the 11:30 a.m. tussle although the Hawks expect them to go all out for an upset.

"The opposition is getting tougher and we expect our rivals to play a notch better every time they face us," said UM president Ernesto Delos Santos.

The Hawks' winning streak is the longest in local collegiate basketball history. They hope to extend it even in the Battle of Champions, where they will face the best of the UAAP and NCAA teams.

The Saints, steered by the partnership of coach Joel Dualan and SCC president Dr. Ernest Jay Adalem, came out of the elimination with an 11-5 slate. They are favored over the Scorpions (10-6).

The championship series is a best-of-five affair.

Marc Anthony Reyes

GAMES TODAY
(Makati Coliseum)
10 a.m.—St. Clare vs CEU
11:30 a.m.—UM vs PLP

31 junior squads vying in Toribio Cup spikefest

THE SECOND Francisco C. Toribio Volleyball Cup—a junior tournament held in honor of the winningest volleyball coach in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines—unfurls Sept. 18 at the UE Gym 5 in Manila.

UE is the defending boys champion and Ernesto Rondon High School the reigning girls titlist.

Sixteen boys teams and 15 girls squads are competing, according to organizing committee head Rolando "Brenn" Perez of the UE Department of Physical Education. Leo Viajar is tournament director.

Ateneo, UST, Xavier, School of St. Anthony, Saint Mary's-QC, Ernesto Rondon, Hope Christian High, Lourdes School-Mandaluyong, Diliman Preparatory School and Hope Christian High are among the other teams entered.

Ho too hot to handle

INTERNATIONAL School's Joshua Tan Ho stopped Mark Balce's momentum cold in the deciding set to prevail, 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, Sunday and capture the boys' 14-under title in the Philta Classic 6 age-group tournament in San Pablo City.

The boys' 18-under title went to Ralph Barte, who outlasted Pablo Olivarez III, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Olivarez came back to put away the 16-under title over Balce, 6-3, 6-2.

Joseph Baldonado demolished Kyle Cordero, 6-1, 6-1, to secure the 12-under title and Prince Salvacion nailed the unisex 10-under title over Ronel Santiago, 6-2, 6-0.

In the girls' division, Bien Zoleta downed Trudy Amoranto, 6-3, 6-2, to cop the 18-under title.

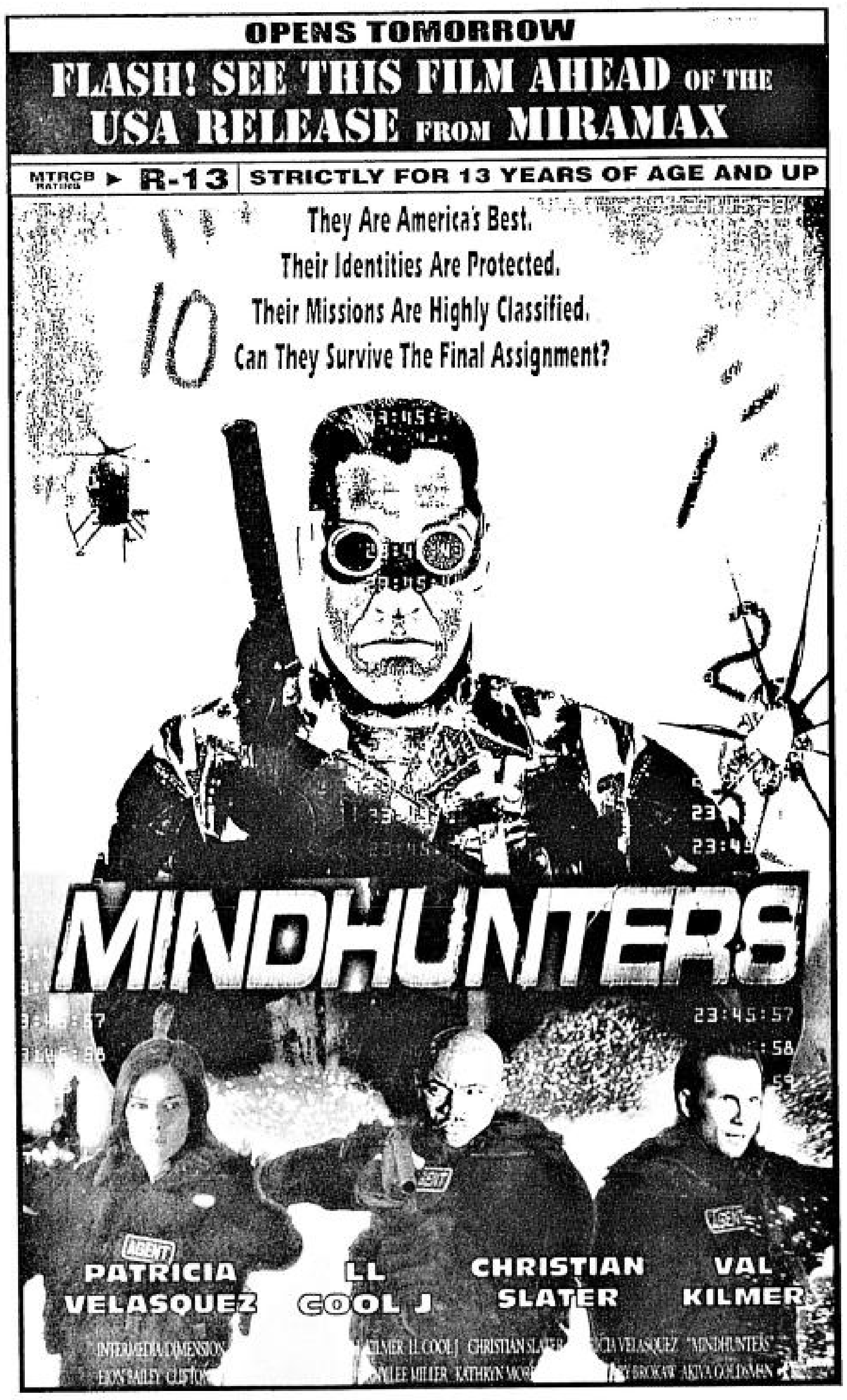
Amoranto returned to capture the 16-under title over Christine Patrimonio, 5-7, 6-4, 6-0, and Bambi Zoleta clinched the 14-under title over Christine Patrimonio, 6-2, 6-2, and Joan Opulencia took the 12-under title.

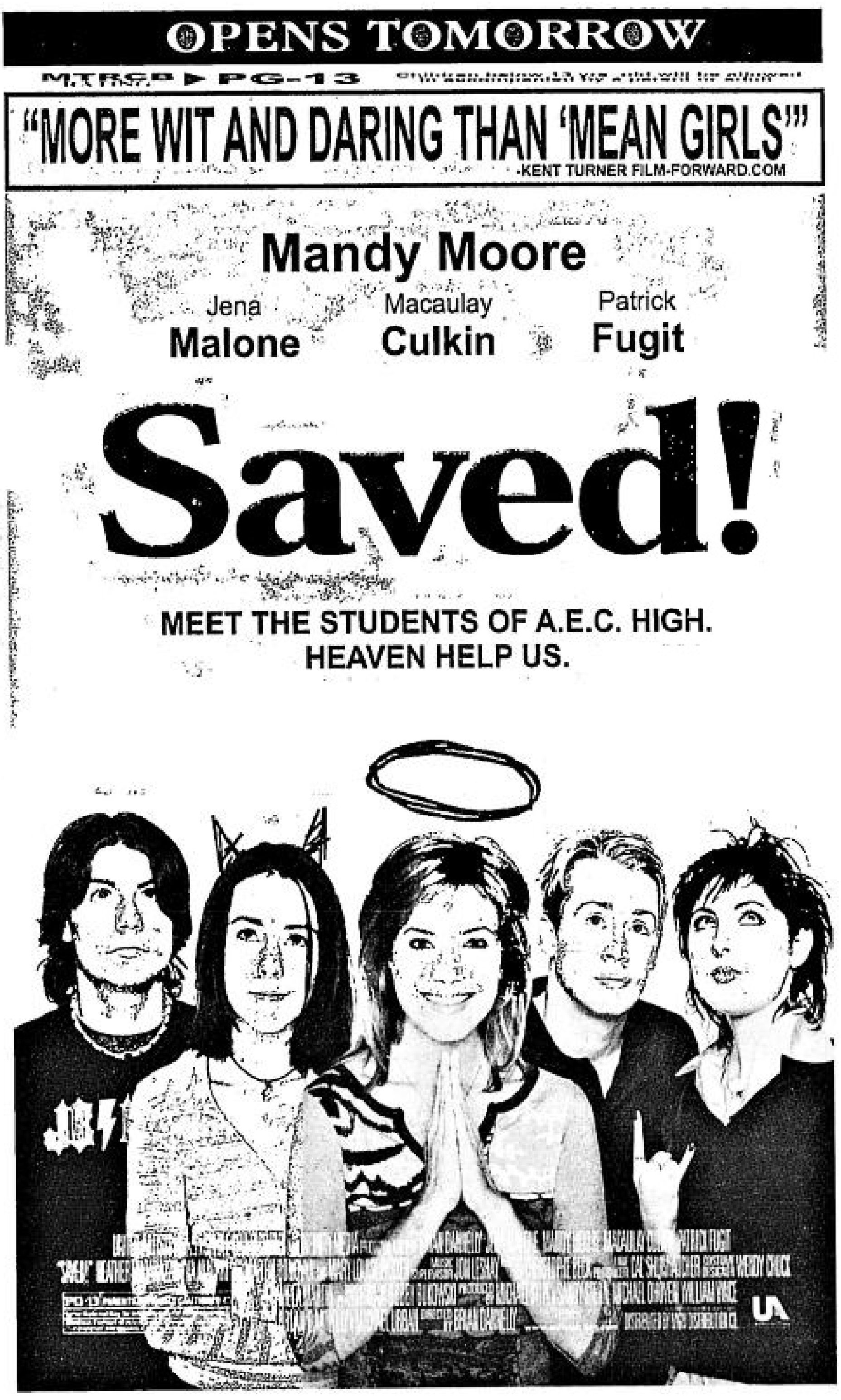
Tan Ho, together with Olivarez and El Santo Santos, will banner the local campaigners in the Asian Tennis Federation 14-Under Championships slated Sept. 21-25 at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Sports Center in Pasig City.

RACING TIPS

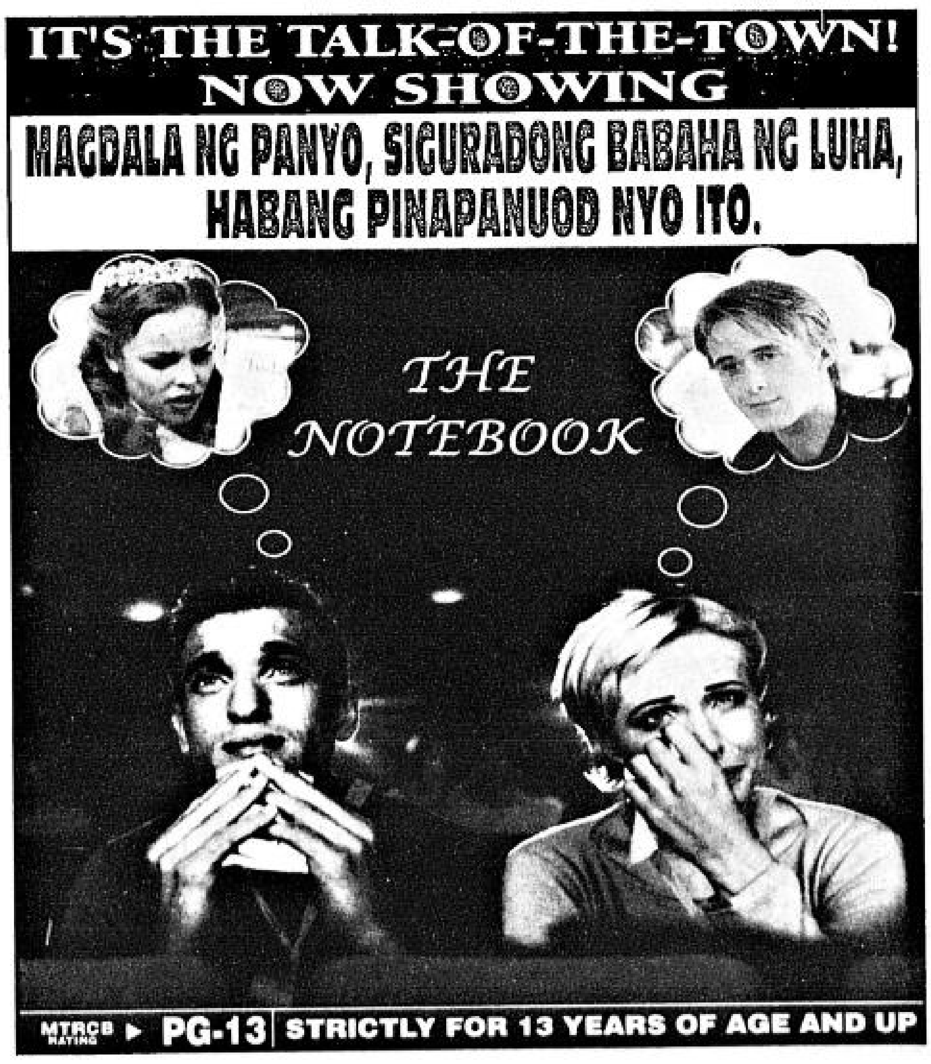
AT SANTA ANA
BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. KingSize/Do It David 2. En Carta 3. Naughty 4. Hurry Prince
Race 2--1. Jajie 2. King View 3. Bulalakaw 4. Can and Will
Race 3--1. West Swinger 2. Angel Eyes 2. Precious Monenbt 4. Gelay's Charm 5. Gold and Star
Race 4--1. Socialize 2. Detonator 3. Witch Craft 4. Noble Principality
Race 5--1. Scrap of Gold 2. Perfect Time 3. Holy King 4. Impossible Dream 5. Gigi's Gold/Letshaveaparty
Race 6--1. Last Hazm 2. Little Girl 3. Unrivaled 4. Friendly Venture
Race 7--1. Lady Victoria 2. Blue Bolero 3. Big Mama 4. Danielle's Angel 5. Ocean Magic
Race 8--1. Super Hero 2. Native Prince 3. Aya's Star/Silver Cho Cho 4. Red Bells 5. Dynasty 6. Expediter


OPENS TOMORROW
FLASH! SEE THIS FILM AHEAD OF THE USA RELEASE FROM MIRAMAX
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
They Are America's Best.
Their Identities Are Protected.
Their Missions Are Highly Classified.
Can They Survive The Final Assignment?
10
MINDHUNTERS
PATRICIA VELASQUEZ
LL COOL J
CHRISTIAN SLATER
VAL KILMER

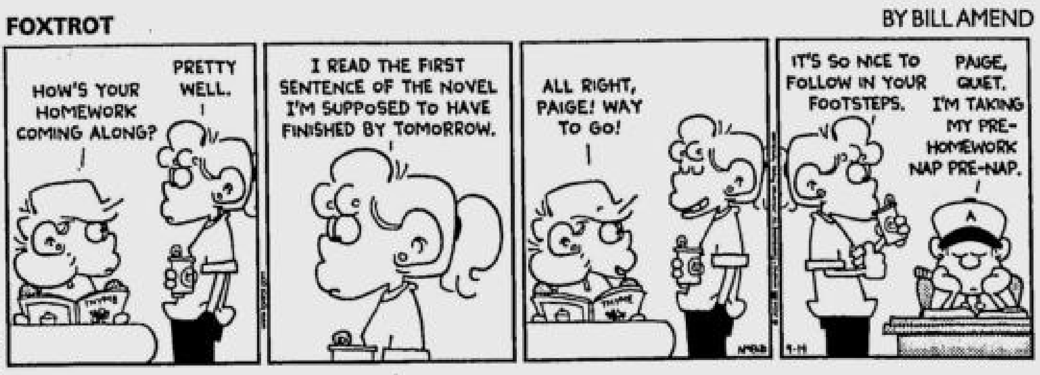

OPENS TOMORROW
MTRCB ▶ PG-13
"MORE WIT AND DARING THAN 'MEAN GIRLS'"
-KENT TURNER FILM-FORWARD.COM
Mandy Moore
Jena Malone
Macaulay Culkin
Patrick Fugit
Saved!
MEET THE STUDENTS OF A.E.C. HIGH.
HEAVEN HELP US.
UA

NOW SHOWING
BAWAL MANUOD ANG MGA MAHIHINA ANG SIKMURA
PASISIGAWIN KA MULA SIMULA HANGGANG WAKAS.
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
"SCARY AS HELL"
If someone you love was taken from you, how far would you go to bring him back from the dead?
GODSEND
GREG KINNEAR
ROBERT DE NIRO
REBECCA ROMIJN-STAMOS


IT'S THE TALK-OF-THE-TOWN!
NOW SHOWING
MAGDALA NG PANYO, SIGURADONG BABAHA NG LUHA, HABANG PINAPANUOD NYO ITO.
THE NOTEBOOK
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

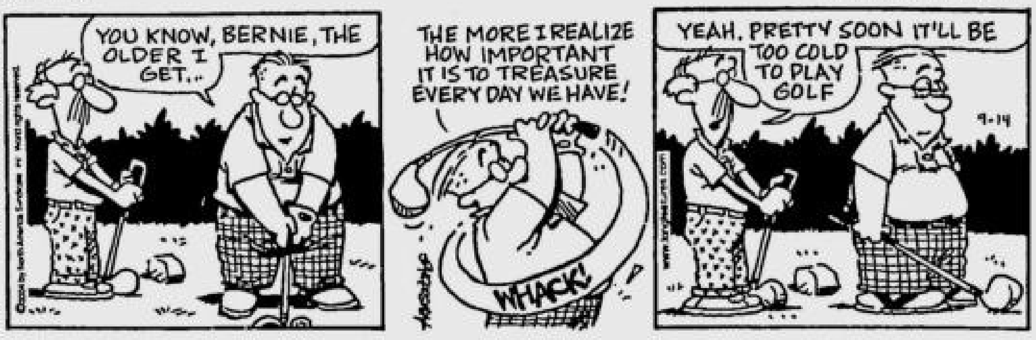
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HOW'S YOUR HOMEWORK COMING ALONG?
PRETTY WELL.
I READ THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE NOVEL I'M SUPPOSED TO HAVE FINISHED BY TOMORROW.
ALL RIGHT, PAIGE! WAY TO GO!
IT'S SO NICE TO FOLLOW IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS.
PAIGE, QUIET. I'M TAKING MY PRE-HOMEWORK NAP PRE-NAP.
9-14

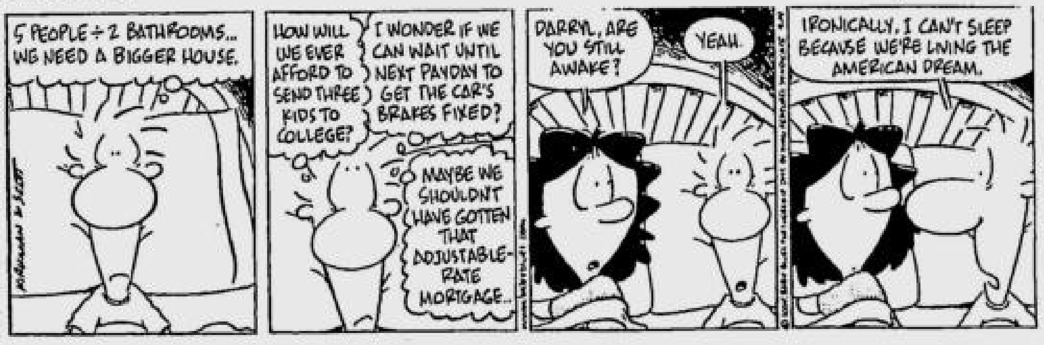
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


YOU KNOW, BERNIE, THE OLDER I GET..
THE MORE I REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO TREASURE EVERY DAY WE HAVE!
WHACK!
YEAH. PRETTY SOON IT'LL BE TOO COLD TO PLAY GOLF
9-14

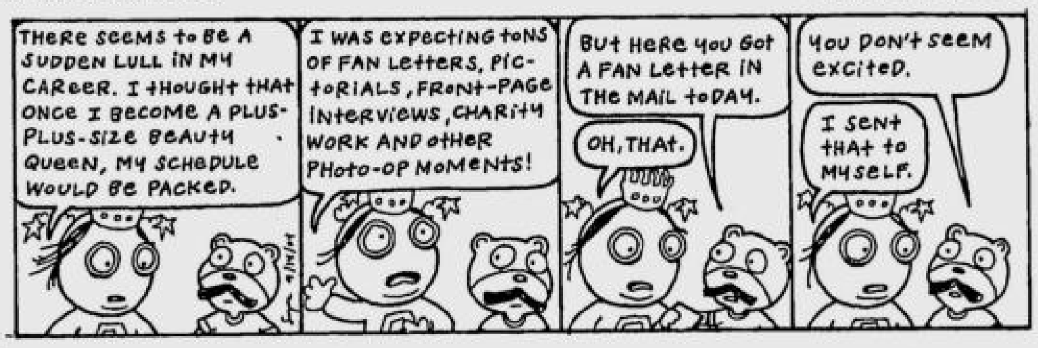
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


5 PEOPLE ÷ 2 BATHROOMS... WE NEED A BIGGER HOUSE.
HOW WILL WE EVER AFFORD TO SEND THREE KIDS TO COLLEGE?
I WONDER IF WE CAN WAIT UNTIL NEXT PAYDAY TO GET THE CAR'S BRAKES FIXED?
MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN THAT ADJUSTABLE-RATE MORTGAGE...
DARRYL, ARE YOU STILL AWAKE?
YEAH.
IRONICALLY, I CAN'T SLEEP BECAUSE WE'RE LIVING THE AMERICAN DREAM.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


There seems to be a sudden lull in my career. I thought that once I become a plus-plus-size beauty queen, my schedule would be packed.
I was expecting tons of fan letters, pictorials, front-page interviews, charity work and other photo-op moments!
But here you got a fan letter in the mail today.
Oh, that.
You don't seem excited.
I sent that to myself.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a fine, observant mind. You're efficient, effective and productive. (Quite admirable, really.) You make observations about society and then mirror them back to everyone. In doing so, you have much to offer the world. You know that laziness often masquerades as style. (But you're not fooled.) Partnerships are your focus this year.

Birthdate of: Sam Neill, actor; Kimberly Williams, actress; Melissa Leo, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today's New Moon is the perfect time to make resolutions about how to improve your health. Why not decide to cut back or eliminate one harmful habit?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): It's important to value your creative talent, no matter what you do for a living. Tap into this by doing something just for fun.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Each New Moon is a good time to make resolutions. This New Moon in particular urges you to make improvements to home, family and your domestic situation

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Have you been in touch with your siblings lately? Don't let bad feelings create a rift in the family. Forgive, and learn to live and let live. Show others that you care.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): What can you do to cut down on expenses so that you have more money to meet your needs or (if you're lucky) more money for disposable income? Think about this today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): There are four planets (including the New Moon) in your sign today. Think about how you can improve your appearance and create a better self-image.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It's important to realize that time spent alone can be valuable. It gives you a chance to make friends with yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Today's New Moon is a good time to think about friendship. Your friends have an enormous influence on your future because they affect your mind and, hence, your choices.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Now is the time to assess your life direction. Are you headed where you want to go?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Is there some kind of advanced training or further education you can get to improve your career or quality of life? Today is a good day to think about this.

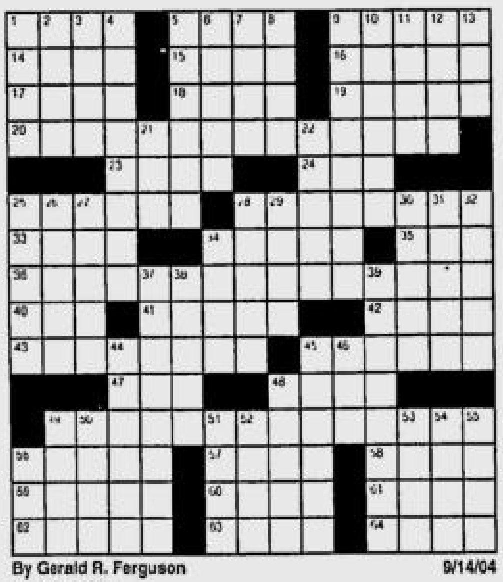
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): It's just as important to figure out how to reduce your costs as it is to figure out how to increase your earnings. What can you do to reduce your debt?

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This New Moon is the best time all year to think about how to improve your partnerships and close friendships. Remember: You must be as good for your partner as he or she is for you.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Those opposed
5 Soak up rays
9 Jacket part
14 District
15 Opposed to
16 Muse of verse
17 Stitched together
18 __ in the water
19 Jimmy of "N.Y.P.D. Blue"
20 Stadium meal
23 Cake finisher
24 Saul's uncle
25 Useful qualities
28 Chief support
33 Early American politico
34 Deputized group
35 River inlet
36 Stadium souvenir
40 AAA suggestion
41 Alvin of dance
42 Opposite of aweather
43 Merits
45 Caesar and Waldorf
47 Abandon the truth
48 Blood fluids
49 Stadium snack
56 Moorland
57 Cargo
58 Equestrian's whip
59 Chip maker
60 Speechless
61 "Giant" writer Ferber
62 Disheveled
63 Raced
64 Grafton and Lyon



By Gerald R. Ferguson
Portland, OR
9/14/04

DOWN

1 Check alternative
2 Nabisco cookie
3 Small salamander
4 California port
5 Emblems
6 Close, in poetry
7 Musial or Laurel
8 Infamous captain
9 Abated
10 Adds protective layers to
11 Settled a debt
12 Kett of the comics
13 __ Alamos, NM
21 Calendar abbr.
22 Licorice flavoring
25 Obie or Edgar
26 "On the Beach" author
27 Web spots
28 Acts down in the dumps
29 Pallid
30 Singing syllables
31 Was sick
32 Some locks
34 Wan
37 In a flashy manner
38 Metal fastener
39 Maintains equilibrium
44 Thrills
45 Sowed
46 Southern constellation
48 Sudden outpouring
49 Clair or Coty
50 Stable staple
51 Shade providers
52 Fasten, as buttons
53 Language of Pakistan
54 Manner of speaking
55 Rejuvenation resorts
56 That man

Monday's Puzzle Solved

S	L	O	B	■	S	C	A	R	S	■	A	H	A	B
L	I	M	O	■	T	A	C	I	T	■	R	E	N	O
O	V	E	R	■	A	N	I	S	E	■	C	A	T	O
P	E	N	A	■	B	A	D	E	N	B	A	D	E	N
■	■	■	B	I	L	L	■	■	C	A	N	■	■	■
L	A	H	O	R	E	■	W	H	I	T	E	S	E	A
O	Z	A	R	K	■	S	A	I	L	S	■	H	I	M
A	T	R	A	■	B	A	N	E	S	■	P	A	G	E
D	E	S	■	G	A	L	E	S	■	H	A	V	E	N
S	C	H	T	I	C	K	S	■	T	I	G	E	R	S
■	■	■	E	L	K	■	■	P	E	S	O	■	■	■
W	A	L	L	A	W	A	L	L	A	■	P	A	P	A
A	M	O	S	■	A	R	E	A	S	■	A	R	A	B
N	I	N	O	■	S	I	N	C	E	■	G	I	V	E
T	E	E	N	■	H	A	T	E	S	■	O	D	E	S

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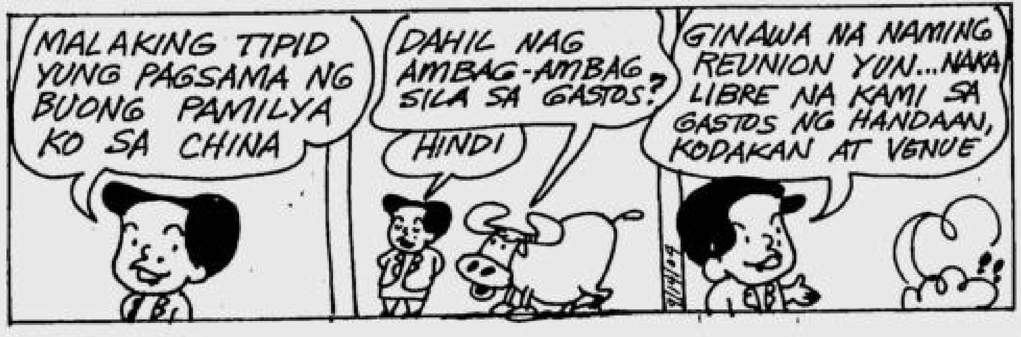
9/14/04

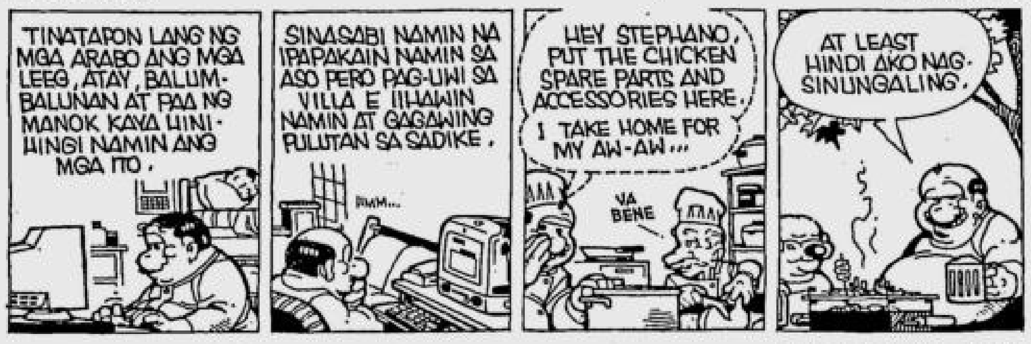
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MALAKING TIPID YUNG PAGSAMA NG BUONG PAMILYA KO SA CHINA
DAHIL NAG AMBAG-AMBAG SILA SA GASTOS?
HINDI
GINAWA NA NAMING REUNION YUN...NAKA LIBRE NA KAMI SA GASTOS NG HANDAAN, KODAKAN AT VENUE

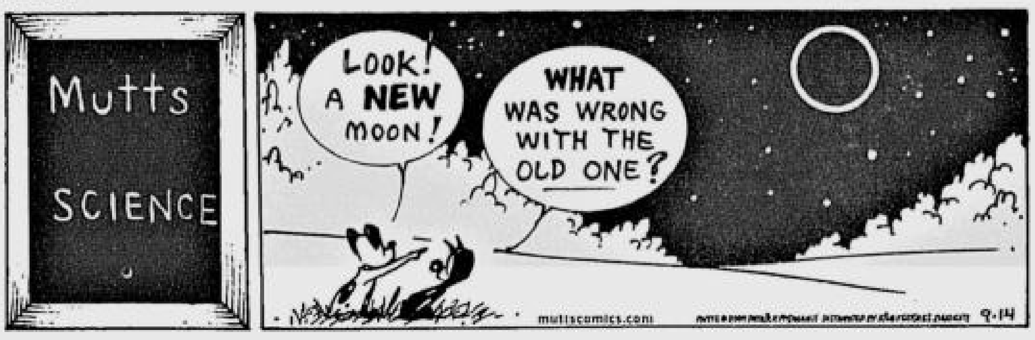
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TINATAPON LANG NG MGA ARABO ANG MGA LEEG, ATAY, BALUMBALUNAN AT PAA NG MANOK KAYA HINIHINGI NAMIN ANG MGA ITO.
SINASABI NAMIN NA IPAPAKAIN NAMIN SA ASO PERO PAG-UWI SA VILLA E IIHAWIN NAMIN AT GAGAWING PULUTAN SA SADIKE.
HMM...
HEY STEPHANO, PUT THE CHICKEN SPARE PARTS AND ACCESSORIES HERE.
I TAKE HOME FOR MY AW-AW...
VA BENE
AT LEAST HINDI AKO NAGSINUNGALING.

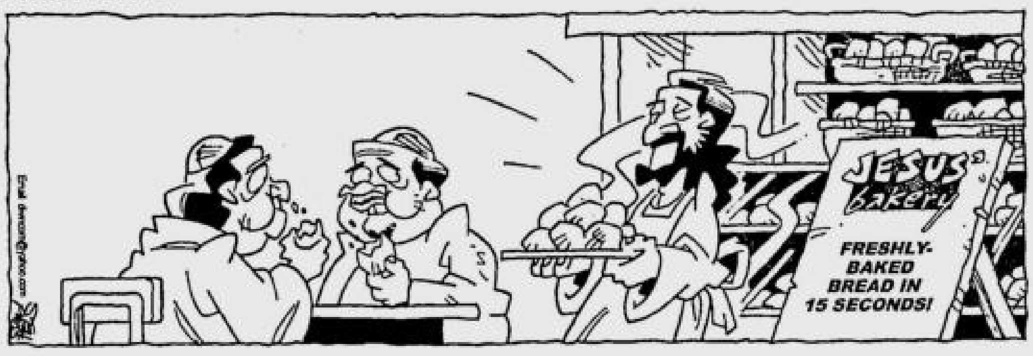
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Mutts
SCIENCE
LOOK! A NEW MOON!
WHAT WAS WRONG WITH THE OLD ONE?
muttscomics.com
9-14

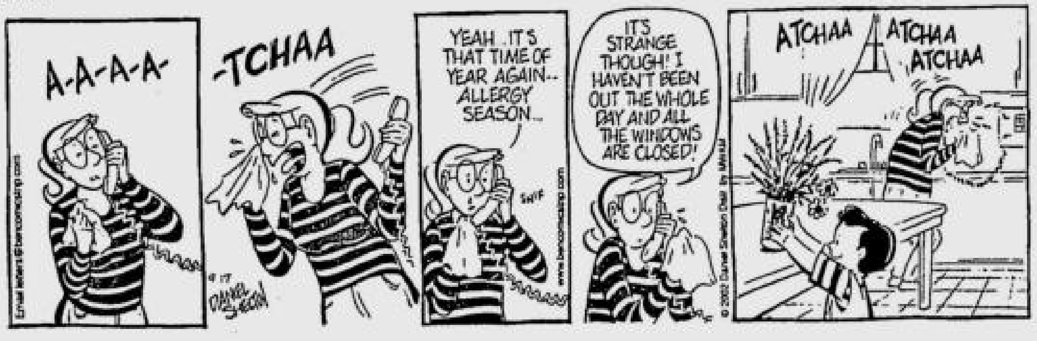
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


JESUS' bakery
FRESHLY-BAKED BREAD IN 15 SECONDS!

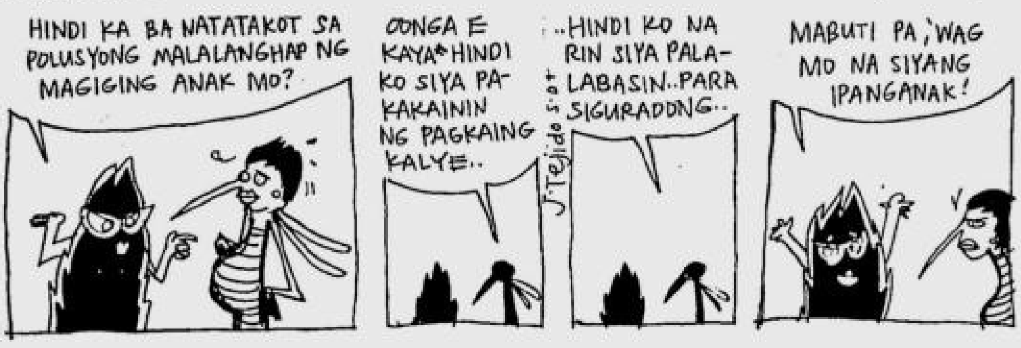
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


A-A-A-A-
-TCHAA
YEAH. IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN.. ALLERGY SEASON..
SNIF
IT'S STRANGE THOUGH! I HAVEN'T BEEN OUT THE WHOLE DAY AND ALL THE WINDOWS ARE CLOSED!
ATCHAA
ATCHAA
ATCHAA

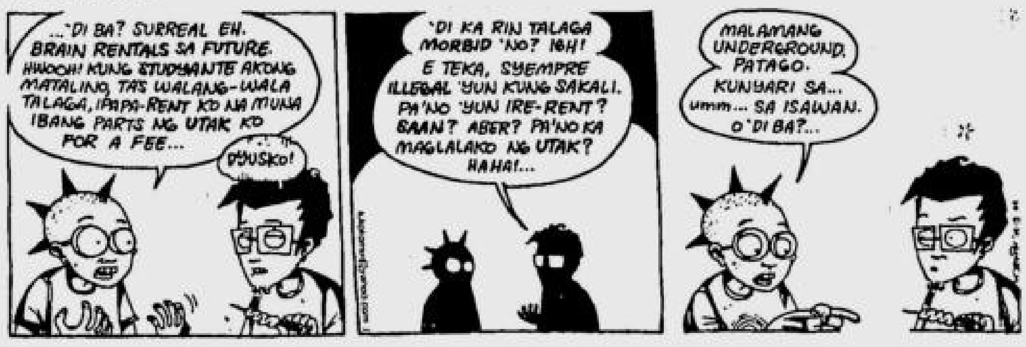
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HINDI KA BA NATATAKOT SA POLUSYONG MALALANGHAP NG MAGIGING ANAK MO?
OONGA E KAYA HINDI KO SIYA PAKAKAININ NG PAGKAING KALYE..
..HINDI KO NA RIN SIYA PALALABASIN..PARA SIGURADONG..
MABUTI PA, 'WAG MO NA SIYANG IPANGANAK!
J. Tejido

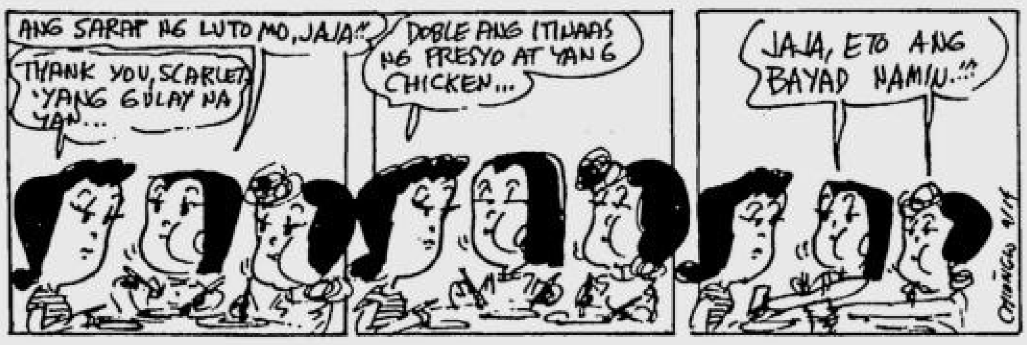
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


..'DI BA? SURREAL EH. BRAIN RENTALS SA FUTURE. HWOOH! KUNG ESTUDYANTE AKONG MATALINO TAS WALANG-WALA TALAGA, IPAPA-RENT KO NA MUNA IBANG PARTS NG UTAK KO FOR A FEE...
DYUSKO!
'DI KA RIN TALAGA MORBID 'NO? IGH! E TEKA, SYEMPRE ILLEGAL 'YUN KUNG SAKALI. PA'NO 'YUN IRE-RENT? SAAN? ABER? PA'NO KA MAGLALAKO NG UTAK? HAHA!...
MALAMANG UNDERGROUND. PATAGO. KUNWARI SA... umm... SA ISAWAN. O'DI BA?...

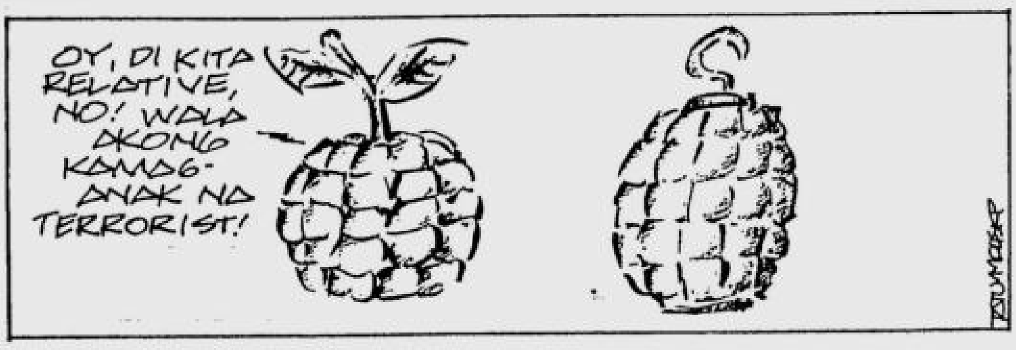
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG SARAP NG LUTO MO, JAJA!
THANK YOU, SCARLET. 'YANG GULAY NA YAN...
DOBLE ANG ITINAAS NG PRESYO AT YANG CHICKEN...
JAJA, ETO ANG BAYAD NAMIN..!!
CHIONGLO 9/14

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, DI KITA RELATIVE, NO! WALA AKONG KAMAG-ANAK NA TERRORIST!

CHAD STUART

JEREMY CLYDE

Chad & Jeremy live in Manila

IN October, Chad & Jeremy, the duo from the '60s, will come to the Philippines for the very first time and will perform live at the Hard Rock Café on Oct. 15 and at the Aliw Theater at the CCP Complex on Oct. 16.

Music fans in the Philippines were drawn to Chad & Jeremy's romantic folk sound and fell in love with their now-classic songs as "Distant Shores," "The Way You Look Tonight," "Before and After," "You've Got Your Troubles," "September in the Rain," and many others.

Chad & Jeremy's song "Yesterday's Gone" made it to the US Top 20 pop charts in 1964. Other hits followed, including their biggest US chartbusters, "A Summer Song," "Willow Weep For Me," "Before and After," "What Do You Want With Me," and "I Don't Want to Lose You Baby."

Chad & Jeremy also embarked on an acting career and were seen by millions of viewers across America.

Chad & Jeremy were among the British acts that invaded America in the '60s. What people may not know is that the tandem is made up of a royal and a commoner.

Chad Stuart had a middle-class background, while the mother of the privileged Jeremy Clyde is the daughter of the Duke of Wellington, making Jeremy a member of British royalty. Jeremy's great-great-great-grandfather defeated Napoleon Bonaparte at the battle of Waterloo.

After 20 long years, Chad & Jeremy earlier this year released a new studio album, "The Acoustic Set—Summer 2004." It contains acoustic versions of all their hits.

In October, the duo will perform for their Pinoy fans for the first time. "Chad & Jeremy Live in Manila" is staged by Steve O'Neal Soundtrack Productions. Tickets are available at TicketWorld outlets at Tower Records, National Bookstores, Ayala Malls and Robinsons.

For tickets and inquiries, call 891-9999.

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NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA 632-9115 to 16

Cinema	Movie	Times
CINEMA 1 THX	THE TERMINAL	11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
2	THE TERMINAL	10:30, 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30
3	DODGEBALL	11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
4	GODSEND	10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
5	ANACONDAS	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
6	THE NOTEBOOK	11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
7	JANDARA	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
8	THE TOOL BOX MURDERS	10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
9	HAUNTED SPIRITS 2	12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
10	THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	ANACONDAS	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40
2	GODSEND	10:40, 12.50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40
3	THE TERMINAL	11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:50
4	THE TOOL BOX MURDERS	10:40, 12 40, 2 40, 4.40, 6:40, 8.30, 10 00
5	HAUNTED SPIRITS 2	11:00, 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9 30
6	DODGEBALL	10:30, 12:25, 2.20, 4:15, 6 10, 8 05, 10:00
7	THE NOTEBOOK	10:20, 12.30, 2.50, 5:10, 7:30, 9.50

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00
2	DODGEBALL	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50, 10:30
3	THE TERMINAL	12:30, 3:10, 5.50, 8 25, 10:30
4	GODSEND	10.50, 12.50, 2 50, 4:50, 6.50, 9:00
5	ANACONDAS	10 20, 12:40, 3 00, 5 20, 7:40, 10:00
6	THE TOOL BOX MURDERS	10:50, 12.50, 2.50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
7	THE NOTEBOOK	10:05, 12:50, 3:35, 6:20, 9:05
8	TAG-INIT	10.30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30

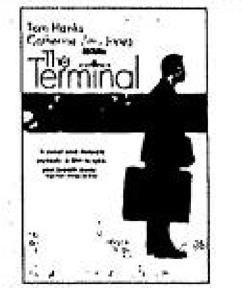
NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	ANACONDAS	10:30, 12:35, 2:40, 4:45, 6:50, 8:55
2	THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40
3	DODGEBALL	11:45, 1:55, 4.05, 6:15, 8:30
4	JANDARA	10:30, 12:30, 2 30, 4 30, 6:30, 8:30
5	THE TERMINAL	12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:20
6	THE TOOL BOX MURDERS	11.45, 1:55, 4:05, 6.15, 8:30
7	TAG-INIT	11:00, 1 00, 3:00, 5.00, 7.00, 9:00
8	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	11.00, 2.00, 3.00, 5:00, 7.00, 8:55

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575	CAINTA 240-4661	STA. ROSA (049)837-0907
1 DODGEBALL	1 TAG-INIT	1 ANACONDAS
2 THE TERMINAL	2 DODGEBALL	2 THE TERMINAL
3 ANACONDAS	3 THE TERMINAL	3 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
4 TAG-INIT	4 ANACONDAS	4 SUPERSIZE ME
		5 THE STEPFORD WIVES

LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870	DASMARIÑAS 852-2125 / 416-4332	STARMILLS San Fernando, Pampanga 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2	1 THE TERMINAL	1 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
2 DODGEBALL	2 THUNDERBIRDS	2 DEATH CURSE
3 LAWS OF ATTRACTION	3 ANACONDAS	3 THUNDERBIRDS
4 HAMOG	4 HOUSE OF THE DEAD	4 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
5 CONNIE AND CARLA	5 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS	5 ANACONDAS
		6 CONNIE AND CARLA

IMUS 471-6188 / 875-5858	BACOLOD 441-0458/59	ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 ANACONDAS	1 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2	1 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS	2 A CINDERELLA STORY	2 THE STEPFORD WIVES
3 THE NOTEBOOK	3 THE PRINCE AND ME	3 A CINDERELLA STORY
4 DODGEBALL	4 THUNDERBIRDS	4 SUPERSIZE ME
5 TAG-INIT	5 LAWS OF ATTRACTION	5 THE VILLAGE
6 THE TERMINAL	6 KARELASYON	6 KARELASYON



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"THE U.S. DOOR IS OPEN"
Watch "The Terminal" at any Robinsons Movieworld branch and get a chance to win a round trip ticket to the U.S. Or take home a HUGO BOSS gift pack!
Promo duration: September 8 to 29, 2004
Robinsons Movieworld and UIP will take you to The Terminal of Los Angeles, California via UNITED AIRLINES
MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

See'eMall!

AYALA CINEMAS THX
Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
THX 1 DODGEBALL	1 ANACONDAS	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 THE NOTEBOOK 1 30 4 00 6 30, 9 00, 11 30	1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 THE TERMINAL	2 DODGEBALL	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 THE TERMINAL 1 10, 3 40, 6 10, 8 40, 11:10	2 CONNIE & CARLA
3 ANACONDAS	3 THE TERMINAL	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 ANACONDAS 2 00 4 00 6 00, 8 00, 10 00	3 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2: THE UNBORN
4 GODSEND	4 GODSEND	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 GODSEND 2 35, 4 45, 6 55, 9 05, 11:15	4 ANACONDAS
5 THE NOTEBOOK		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 THE NOTEBOOK 1 30 4 00 6 30, 9 00 11 30	5 A CINDERELLA STORY

G4 GLORIETTA 4	
1 DODGEBALL	5 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 ANACONDAS	6 THE TERMINAL
GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 THE NOTEBOOK [illegible] 5 30, 8 00, 10 30	7 GODSEND
4 CONNIE & CARLA	

GB1 GREENBELT 1	
1	DODGEBALL 11:50, 1:50, 3.50, 5.50, 7.50, 9:50
2	THE TERMINAL 11 40, 2 10, 4 40, 7.10, 9 40

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
BPI APPLIANCE MADNESS September 9 to 26, 2004	LAGUNA EXPO September 13 to 17, 2004	INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILS. QUIZ BOWL September 16, 1:00 to 7:00pm

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES from Thursday to Saturday (7-10pm) Brazil Groove (Thu), Acoustic Anthology (Fri), Acoustic Jive w/ May Bayot (Sat)	SAVOUR NATURE EXHIBIT BY WWF PHILIPPINES Greenbelt 3 Lobby, September 1 to 14

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents PINOCCHIO at REP's GLOBE THEATER - August 7 to December 12, 2004

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Catherine Zeta-Jones
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Every ticket of THE TERMINAL purchased in Ayala Cinemas (Glorietta 1 & 4, Greenbelt 1 & 3 and Alabang Town Center) entitles the moviegoer to one (1) raffle entry.

The ticket booth personnel will ask the customer to fill up the raffle coupon for every purchase of The Terminal movie ticket. Drop boxes will be placed at the cinema lobbies where moviegoers can drop the attached coupon.

Prizes include 1 round trip ticket from Manila to the U.S. valid until March 2005, 6 Hugo Boss gift packs and 10 Ayala Cinemas movie passes.

Promo is valid from September 8 - 25, 2004 (from Mon - Sun) all screenings of The Terminal. Deadline for dropping of entries is on September 25.

Raffle Draw will be on September 30, 5:00pm at the Glorietta 4 cinema lobby.

Moviegoer may only win once. In case a moviegoer is drawn more than once, the higher prize will be given.

Winners will be notified through registered mail, newspaper ads and phone call.

Prizes can be claimed at the Ayala Cinemas office, 5th flr. Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati. Winner must present a valid ID, notice received thru registered mail and raffle coupon.

Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the receipt of the notification shall be forfeited with prior approval of DTI.

All employees of Ayala Cinemas and its subsidiaries including their relatives up to the second degree in consanguinity affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

Prize Tax, travel documents and other related expenses will be shouldered by the winner.

All prizes are not convertible to cash but are transferable.

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Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart).
Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

AYALA CENTER ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU Love'eMall!

Big actor has gay past

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Ann Carvajal

I SAW a long-lost gay friend from the academe and we laughed like crazy when he recounted his "intimate encounter" with an award-winning actor in the main library of our university.

The actor was still a struggling theater artist back then. My friend reminisced, "I was still confused at that time whether I was straight or gay. I had a girlfriend then, but after what happened between the actor and me, *na-awaken ang pagkabading ko!* It just happened once but it changed my life completely! No wonder many girls fall for him."

The actor is already famous now. My friend got the shock of his life when he bumped into the actor and the latter blurted out, "You look so familiar." All my friend could do was smile and blush.

"*Kaya kahit anong intriga ang ibinabato sa kanya ngayon,*" my friend said, "*super-depensa ako kasi wala siyang* hang-ups. *Hindi siya* homophobic. *Totoong tao siya.*"

Sometimes our dark secrets can shed some light on our true nature. If only the actor's detractors can scratch beneath the surface, they'll see what a gentle soul he is even to strangers who happen to be gay.

Duncan's girl

COULD it be true that South Border's vocalist **Duncan Ramos** has a love child?

I met Duncan when he was still going steady with my friend, who's also a band singer and a **Claudine Barretto** look-alike. For awhile I thought they would end up together because they were so intensely in love with each other. Oblivious to other people, Duncan would carry my friend from her pad all the way to the elevator and down to the Internet shop where we used to hang out. Then my friend would suddenly play the guitar and she and Duncan would burst into a song.

They even have some original compositions that could be hits. Maybe they can record them now that they have made it big in the music scene. Who knows, they might even get back together, if and when they both mellow and not let too much love overpower them.

Jay-R and family

REGINE Velasquez will grace **Jay-R**'s first major concert, and she'll be doing it gratis et amore. The R&B prince's family is flying from the US not just to watch his concert but to perform with him.

Marvin's business

MARVIN Agustin is busy shooting "Spirit of the Glass" for the Metro Manila Film Festival in December. He is also wrapping up his new "Talk & Text" ad with **Robin Padilla**.

Aside from that, he is preparing for the opening of another branch in Makati of his business venture, Ricecapades.

"You're so busy," I told him. "No time for love? Aren't you seeing Mayor **Lito Atienza**'s pretty daughter anymore?"

Marvin merely flashed his boyish smile.

Bella's man

JUST when you think you've heard enough of **Madam Auring**'s romance with a man young enough to be her son, here comes **Bella Flores** showing off her Japanese billionaire boyfriend. It's women like them who remind us that even when love hurts, Cupid still has a sense of humor.

Raven's ex

RAVEN Villanueva admits that aside from her making it as one of the top three winners of "30 Days," the best part of her joining the reality show was patching up with her ex, **Diego Castro**, the father of her 6-year-old daughter.

"We had not been on speaking terms, but after spending so much time together in the show, we had a chance to talk things over," said Raven. "No more bitterness. A reconciliation is out of the question, but we settled matters regarding our kid."

Estranged couples must remember that even when they part ways, they cannot divorce themselves from their kids.

Reader writes

"DEAR Dolly Anne,

"Have you seen the movie 'Cat in the Hat?' If you have seen the movie, did you notice one upsetting part? The movie has a part portraying the Philippines like a Pandora's box. Noticed the box one character pulled out that had 'Made in the Philippines' written on top of it?

"It is quite alarming that the Philippines is being pictured as a laughingstock in a widely circulated movie. This movie is a proof of antagonism and discrimination. I think we need to raise our voices in objection and demand an apology from the makers of this movie.

"Sincerely yours,
Ariel Beltran, Doonsie NSW, Australia."

For feedback, e-mail friends_elpueblo@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

moviestime SM CINEMA

NOW SHOWING

Central

SM MEGAMALL 6331801
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 DODGEBALL
3 THE TERMINAL
4 GODSEND
5 TOOLBOX MURDERS
6 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
7 HAUNTED SPIRIT 2
8 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
9 THE NOTEBOOK
10 ANACONDAS
11 CONNIE AND CARLA
12 LAWS OF ATTRACTION

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749
1 HAUNTED SPIRIT 2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 ANACONDAS
5 GODSEND
6 THE NOTEBOOK
7 DODGEBALL
8 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
9 THE TERMINAL
10 COLLATERAL
11 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
12 TOOLBOX MURDERS

SM CITY MANILA 5239240
1 TOOLBOX MURDERS
2 THE NOTEBOOK
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 THE TERMINAL
5 DODGEBALL
6 ANACONDAS
7 GODSEND
8 HAUNTED SPIRIT 2
9 ANACONDAS
10 I, ROBOT
11 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
12 LAWS OF ATTRACTION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452
1 TOOLBOX MURDERS
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 THE NOTEBOOK
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 THE TERMINAL
6 DODGEBALL
7 ANACONDAS
8 GODSEND

SM CITY STA. MESA 7140522 • 7161416
1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 TOOLBOX MURDERS
3 THE TERMINAL
4 GODSEND
5 ANACONDAS
6 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
7 DODGEBALL
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
9 THE NOTEBOOK
10 COLLATERAL

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 2514302
1 ANACONDAS
2 GODSEND
3 THE TERMINAL
4 TOOLBOX MURDERS

North

SM CITY MARILAO (044) 933 2013 to 17
1 THE ALAMO
2 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
3 ANACONDAS
4 THUNDERBIRDS

SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015
1 ANACONDAS
2 CONNIE AND CARLA
3 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
6 THUNDERBIRDS

SM CITY BAGUIO (074) 4464505
1 ANACONDAS
2 DEAD PEOPLE
3 THE TERMINAL
4 THUNDERBIRDS

South

SM CITY LAS PIÑAS 8006888
1 DODGEBALL
2 PRINCESS DIARIES
3 ANACONDAS
4 THE TERMINAL
5 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
7 TOOLBOX MURDERS
8 GODSEND
9 THE NOTEBOOK
10 HAUNTED SPIRIT 2

SM CITY BICUTAN 7763055
1 ANACONDAS
2 THE TERMINAL
3 DODGEBALL
4 GODSEND

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT 8294975
1 DODGEBALL
2 THE TERMINAL
3 ANACONDAS
4 GODSEND

SM CITY BACOOR (046)4173858
1 DODGEBALL
2 THE TERMINAL
3 ANACONDAS
4 TOOLBOX MURDERS
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
6 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
7 THE NOTEBOOK
8 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

SM CITY DASMA (046) 4323201-04
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 THE TERMINAL
3 TOOLBOX MURDERS
4 ANACONDAS

SM CITY LUCENA (042) 7108977-80
1 THUNDERBIRDS
2 STEPFORD WIVES
3 DEAD PEOPLE
4 CINDERELLA STORY

Visayas & Mindanao

SM CITY CEBU (032) 2313876
1 THE VILLAGE
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 STEPFORD WIVES
4 CONNIE AND CARLA
5 CINDERELLA STORY
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
7 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
8 ANACONDAS

SM CITY ILOILO (033) 3209422
1 SUPER SIZE ME
2 RESERVED
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 CINDERELLA STORY
5 STEPFORD WIVES
6 RING: THE SPIRAL
7 RESERVED
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY DAVAO (083) 2976998
1 ANACONDAS
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
3 THE ALAMO
4 STEPFORD WIVES
5 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
6 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

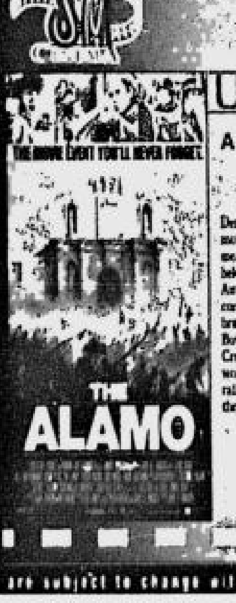
SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8592884
1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 WEREWOLF: GINGERSNAPS 2
3 GARFIELD
4 WHOLE 10 YARDS

—THE— PODIUM CINEMA

1
THE TERMINAL
11:50 FS/12:20
MF/3:00/5:40/
8:20/10:30 LFS/
11:00 LMF/1:10 END

2
DODGEBALL
11:40 FS/12:10
MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/
8:50/10:25 LFS/
11:00 LMF/12:35 END

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS


THE MOVIE EVENT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET.
THE ALAMO

Critics' CHOICE USA

AN SM CINEMA EXCLUSIVE

THE ALAMO

Dennis Quaid (The Day After Tomorrow) stars in this movie, set in the spring of 1836. Nearly 200 Texans – men of all races who believed in the future of Texas – held the fort for 13 days under siege by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, ruler of Mexico and commander of its forces. Led by three men – the young, brash Col. William Travis; the violent, passionate James Bowie; and the larger-than-life living legend David Crockett – the Texans and their deeds at the Alamo would pass into history as General Sam Houston's rallying cry for Texas independence and into legend for their symbolic significance.

Showing on
SM City Bacoor
SM City Cagayan de Oro
MTRCB RATING: PG13
For Screening schedules, Dial 833 9999

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc 171
1 (DOLBY) THE NOTEBOOK
PG-13 / FS: 12:30PM, 3:15PM, 6:00PM, LMF: 8:55PM
2 (DOLBY) THE TERMINAL
GP / FS: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM LMF: 9:40PM
3 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES 2
GP / FS: 11:30AM, 2:05PM, 4:40PM, 7:15PM LMF: 9:50PM
4 (DOLBY) DODGEBALL
PG-13 / FS: 12:10PM, 2:25PM, 4:40PM, 6:55PM LMF: 9:10PM
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) ANACONDAS
PG-13 / FS: 12:50PM, 3:05PM, 5:20PM, 7:35PM, LMF: 9:50PM

isetann SUPER CINERAMA
CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO
tel 733.4236
1. (DOLBY) TOOLBOX MURDER
2. ANACONDAS
3. TAG-INIT
4. THE TERMINAL
5. DODGEBALL

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1
2 UNDERWORLD
3 NAGDADALAGA
4 (SDDS) TAG-INIT
5 THE TERMINAL
6 (DOLBY) DODGEBALL
7 (DTS) ANACONDAS
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 THE TERMINAL
2 ANACONDAS
3 TAG-INIT

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 TAG-INIT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ANACONDAS
5 GODSEND

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4265
1 YOUNG VIRGIN
2 TAG-INIT
3 TOOLBOX MURDER
4 GODSEND
5 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
6 DODGEBALL

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
2 BOLD AFFAIR

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (SDDS) GODSEND
2 (SDDS) ANACONDAS
3 (DTS) THE TERMINAL
4 GOLD (DTS) DODGEBALL
5 GOLD (DOLBY) THE NOTEBOOK
6 GOLD (SDDS) THE TERMINAL
7 GOLD (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
8 (ARMG) TOOLBOX MURDER
9 (ARMG) HAUNTED SPIRIT
10 (ARMG) PRINCESS DIARIES 2

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
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ALIMALL CINEPLEX
Tel. 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8261 / 8397
3 (Dolby) ANACONDAS
4 (SDDS) THE TERMINAL
5 (DTS) DODGEBALL
6 (Dolby) TOOL BOX MURDER
7 (Dolby) GODSEND

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ANACONDAS
2 DODGEBALL
3 TAG-INIT
4 TOOLBOX MURDER

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) OPENS SEPTEMBER 16, 2004
2 OPENS SEPTEMBER 16, 2004
3 (DTS EX) OPENS SEPTEMBER 16, 2004
4 OPENS SEPTEMBER 16, 2004

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 ELLA ENCHANTED
2 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
3 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
4 (DTS) STEPFORD WIVES

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 DEAD PEOPLE
2 WEREWOLF (GINGER SNAP-2)
3 (DOLBY) CONNIE & CARLA
4 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 THE CINDERELLA STORY
2 STEPFORD WIVES

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) THE NOTEBOOK
2 (DOLBY) THE TERMINAL
3 (DOLBY) DODGEBALL
4 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 STEPFORD WIVES
2 THE TERMINAL
3 (DTS) ANACONDAS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 STEPFORD WIVES
2 (DTS) THE TERMINAL
3 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
4 RING - O

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 BULLETS
2 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
3 (DTS) THE TERMINAL
4 STEPFORD WIVES

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 WEREWOLF (GINGER SNAP-2)
2 CHRONICLE OF RIDDICK
3 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 EVE
2 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
3 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
4 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 7953320
1 ANACONDAS
2 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) WILD BUTTERFLY
2 SUGAT
3 TAG-INIT
4 (DTS) ETERNAL SUNSHINE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
2 HAMOG
3 (DTS) THE TERMINAL
4 STEPFORD WIVES
5 DARK DANCER

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 SPIRAL
2 THE CINDERELLA STORY
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
4 (DOLBY) HOUSE OF THE DEAD

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 SURUM
2 DODGEBALL
3 HAMOG
4 PRINCESS DIARIES-2

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 TAG-INIT
2 ANACONDAS

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Compromises result in tepid show

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST Tuesday at 7 p.m., ABC 5 premiered its new program, "Three Blind Dates," hosted by **JM Rodriguez**. The pilot telecast focused on a personable young man who dated three comely women on separate occasions, then chose one of them as his best date.

Clearly "inspired" by a cable program (up to its visualization in caption form of what the young people are *really* thinking during the dating game), the program nevertheless defers to Filipino practice and sensibilities in several significant ways:

First, the searcher is invariably the guy, since it may not be deemed "decent" for a Filipina to flirt with *three* men before deciding on her most rewarding dating experience.

Second, the girls can flirt—but only up to a point. They must never be outrageously on the make, for fear of inviting criticism. The local rule is: They may be "game," but never cheap!

Third, when the guy makes known his choice, his two other dates must never be depicted as rejects.

OK, fine, we accept those adjustments as the show's acts of deference to local attitudes and conventions. Trouble is, so many compromises make for a rather tepid and predictable show.

When everyone follows rules, is afraid to hurt others' feelings, and scrupulously treads the straight and narrow, there goes the fun and surprise—and viewers' interest, to boot.

Clearly, the program has to figure out how not to offend local viewers' sensibilities, while still being fun, unpredictable, sassy and exciting.

That's a tall order, but the show must fill it if it hopes to grab viewers' attention.

The production should also make greater and better use of its host, JM. He shouldn't be limited to simply introducing the program, leading into its different segments, and other housekeeping chores. He's too good a talent to be tied down to TV *au pair* service.

Ever since JM stole the show in the musical "Rent," he's served notice that he's meant for really good stuff onstage. Sad to say, however, he has yet to really follow up on his initial success in musical theater.

And, on TV, he's also been marking time, as a sort of veejay host of a "video booth" program, and now of "Three Blind Dates." This is small potatoes compared with the better breaks that some lesser new talents have been given—a disappointing state of affairs all around.

Logically, singer-actor JM should be doing a musical show on TV. But, since he isn't, his latest program should take it upon itself to give him a boost by making him a more important part of the production.

For instance, can't he act as a more visible and audible foil for the "daters"? Since they're often clueless and gauche, can't JM be made to do a tongue-in-cheek running commentary on how the dates are coming along? Maybe some of his droll comments could be in musical form?

Other adjustments could include more innovative activities for the daters, Q & A matching games or quizzes to determine their relative compatibility, and more creative choice of daters. After all, the dates are supposed to be blind, not comatose—and that goes double for the show's viewers.

Feedback

FROM Rey K. Lirios of Marikina City: "There is little worth watching on so-called 'Free TV' these days, as if broadcast executives decided that viewers have no right to expect better service.. Despite many complaints, executives still don't heed the loud clamor for reforms. The implication is they feel they have no obligation to the viewing public.

"Only in recent years has Free TV been vigorously promoted, to differentiate it from pay or fee TV (cable). Actually, however, the so-called non-paying viewers are the ones financing Free TV. Every time you eat out, shop at the mall or send a text message to a TV contest or survey, part of what you spend pays for the commercials, which in turn pay for TV programs.

"With this realization, suddenly we don't seem like freeloading bums who can be ignored, because the first thing we are going to do from now on is insist on calling TV here what it really is, 'commercial' or 'consumer' TV—or, in the case of the government broadcasting network, 'Public TV'—which isn't free, either, because with our taxes, we subsidize it, too!" (*To be concluded*)

Fanny's make-up video

FANNY Serrano shares his trade secrets in the field of beauty with his instructional make-up video, the first in the Philippines, produced by Viva Video.

No matter what shape your face is, Fanny teaches you what to do to improve on nature. He provides tips on how to start a make-up kit, choose the right hairstyle, enhance assets, minimize flaws, and keep looking fresh all day.

Serrano brings to "Touch" more than 30 years of experience as a hair and make-up stylist to the stars. He is also a well-known couturier, wedding consultant, interior designer and actor, and recently launched his own line of cosmetics, Fanny Serrano by F21.

SOUTH BORDER

South Border at Araneta

SOUTH Border, now on its 11th year, performs in its fourth major concert, "South Border Episode III . . . The Show," on Friday, Sept. 17, at the Araneta Coliseum.

The concert is South Border's first major show with new lead singers Vince Alaras and Duncan Ramos. The others in the band are keyboardist and musical director Jay Durias, drummer and percussionist Paul Benitez, saxophonist and flutist Ric Junasa, bass guitarist Tata Balane and lead and rhythm guitarist Butch Victoriano.

The concert follows the release of the band's new album, "Episode 3," which went gold after only three weeks. The CD features the phenomenal hit, "Rainbow."

The band's next single, "The Show," is South Border's most sensuous song to date and its first attempt at an erotic theme.

The concert does not boast of big names or celebrities as guests to allow the band to entrance its audience to the maximum without distractions, says band manager Sharon Inductivo.

South Border will sing the theme song from the teleserye "Mulawin" titled "Ikaw Nga," now one of the most requested OPM songs on AM and FM radio.

The Big Dome will be transformed into one big dance floor as choreographer Drex Garcia leads dancers from various groups such as Abstract, Kids at Work, Lisa Macuja's Ballet Manila, and top breakdancers to perform with South Border on stage and with the audience.

Treb Monteras, director of "The Show" music video, directs the concert.

Tickets to the South Border show are P1,200, P1,000, P750, P500, P300 and P100.

MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LAUGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	TAG-INIT
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HAMOG
B	CLOSED
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1,2,3 & 4	THE NOTEBOOK/THE TERMINAL/PRINCESS DIARIES 2/DODGEBALL
PREMIERE THEATRE	ANACONDAS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	HAMOG
CINEMA-3	THE VILLAGE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SUGAT (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-6	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
CINEMA-7	LAWS OF ATTRACTION
CINEMA-8	THUNDERBIRDS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
CINEMA-12	THE NOTEBOOK
CINEMA-14	JANDARA
CINEMA-15	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	GARFIELD
CINEMA-4	VILLAGE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3	ANACONDAS	12:00 nn 2:15 pm 4:30 pm 6:45 pm 9:00 pm
4	THE TERMINAL	12:25 pm 3:15 pm 6:05 pm 8:55 pm
5	DODGEBALL	12:00 nn 2:15 pm 4:30 pm 6:45 pm 9:00 pm
6	TOOL BOX MURDERS	12:00 nn 2:15 pm 4:30 pm 6:45 pm 9:00 pm
7	GODSEND	12:00 nn 2:15 pm 4:30 pm 6:45 pm 9:00 pm

ARANETA COLISEUM

Sep 14	DLSU vs Loser FEU / ADMU
Sep 15	JOHN MAXWELL in Manila
Sep 17	SOUTH BORDER CONCERT
Sep 18	WRR ANNIVERSARY CONCERT
Sep 19	UAAP : FINAL 4 - GAMES
Sep 22	NCAA FINALS
Dec 11	JULIO IGLESIAS CONCERT
Dec 25	DISNEY ON ICE : Princess Classics

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

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E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
ClickTheCity.com
CTC MOV EASTWOOD
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and 725 for Smart
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

1	THE NOTEBOOK	11:40, 2:25, 5:10 7:55, 10:40 PG-13
2	DODGEBALL	10:40, 12:55, 3:10 5:25, 7:40, 10:20 PG 13
3	THE TERMINAL	11:10, 1:50, 4:30 7:10, 10:20 GP
4	ANACONDAS	11:05, 1:20, 3:35 5:50, 8:05, 10.20 PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

GODSEND PG13 1:00,3:15,5:30,7:45,10:00	DODGEBALL PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05	THE TERMINAL GP 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30
THE NOTEBOOK PG13 12:00,2:40,5:10,7:40,10:10	TERMINAL GP 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:30	ANACONDAS PG13 12:50, 3:05

MATINEE P80 00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON TO FRI.

SHANG CINEPLEX

① THE NOTEBOOK
FS : 12:30PM, 3:15PM, 6:00PM,
LMF: 8:55PM
MTRCB Rating : (PG - 13)

② THE TERMINAL
MTRCB Rating : (GP)

③ PRINCESS DIARIES 2
FS : 11:30AM, 2:05PM, 4:40PM, 7:15PM
LMF: 9:50PM
MTRCB Rating : (GP)

④ DODGEBALL
FS : 12:10PM, 2:25PM, 4:40PM, 6:55PM
LMF: 9:10PM
MTRCB Rating : (PG - 13)

PREMIERE THEATRE ANACONDAS
FS: 12:50PM, 3:05PM, 5:20PM, 7:35PM, LMF: 9:50PM
MTRCB Rating : (PG - 13)

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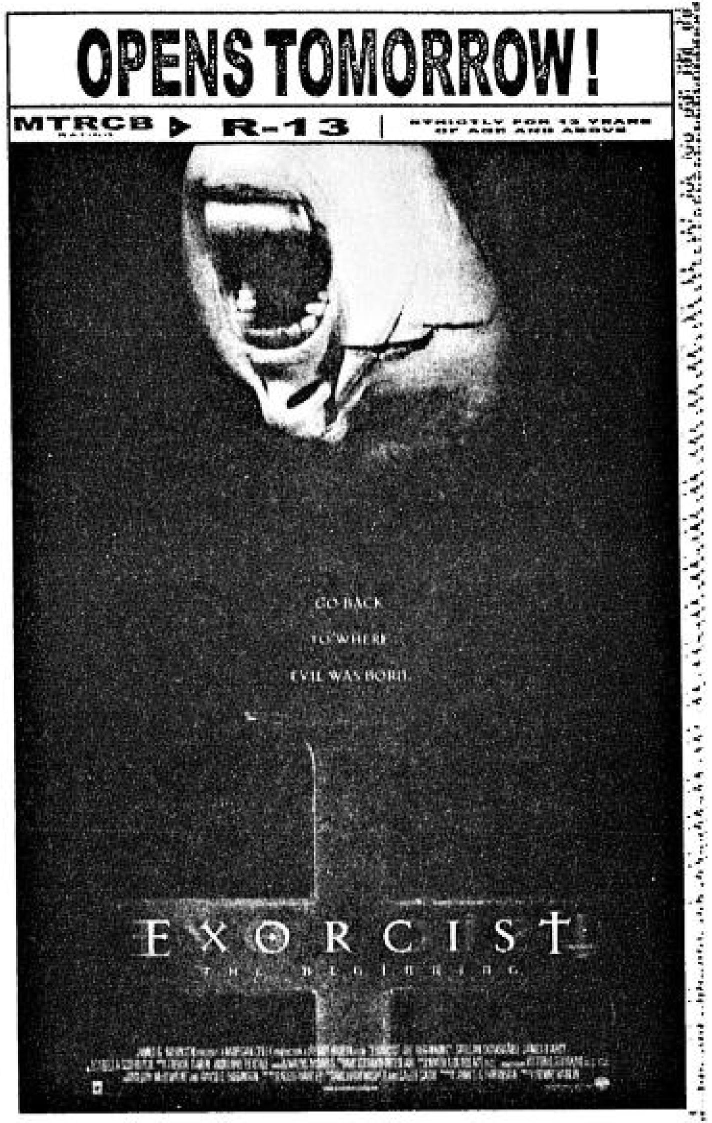
September 17 & 18	JAYA & ELIZABETH RAMSEY	9PM
September 24 & 25	SHERYN REGIS ON A HIGHER NOTE	8:30PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION PLS CALL [illegible]



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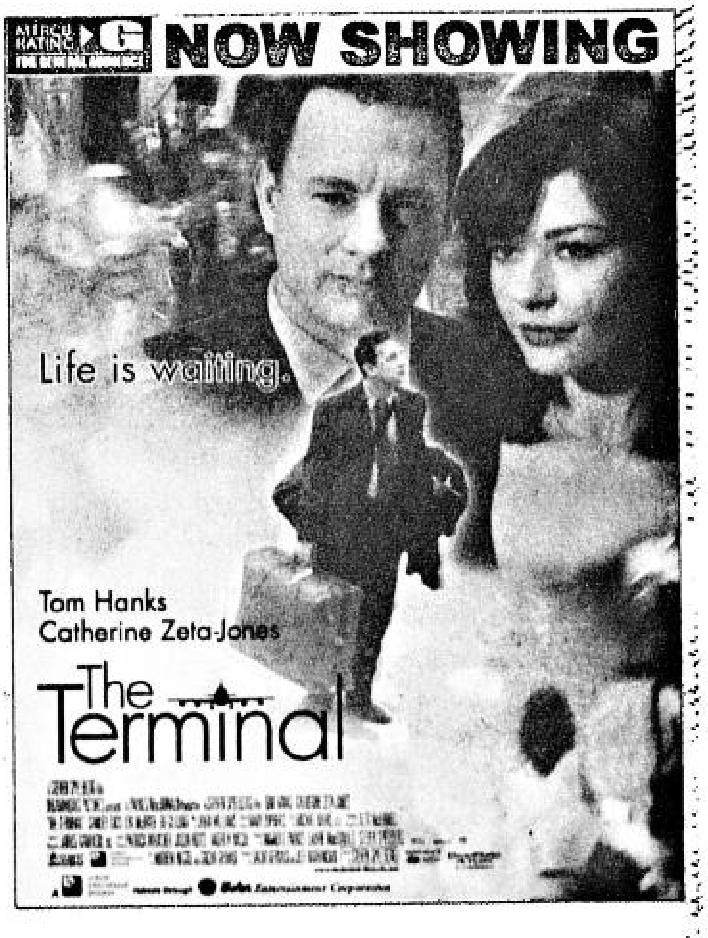


MTRCB RATING G
NOW SHOWING

Out of 'Out'

COBARRUBIAS. No more shock

SIWA. People cheered

MAYUGA. No surprise

'We're not radical,' says the executive producer. 'Everybody can appreciate our show'

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

CHANNEL 7's gay program, "Out," lost one of its three hosts even before it could take off last week.

"He backed out," said "Out" executive producer Melo Esguerra. "I guess he's not ready to come out yet. Although he's out to himself, it's a different thing to announce it on national television."

To come out of the closet, or declare one's true sexual identity, is a personal choice, Esguerra pointed out, but the ex-future host decided to pull out after his family prevailed upon him. Although Esguerra declined to name the host, his face is already familiar to those who pass by the GMA 7 building at the corner of Edsa and Timog Avenue in Quezon City, where a giant billboard announcing "Out" had been on display for weeks.

The two remaining hosts, Jigs Mayuga and Avi Siwa, admitted being affected by the withdrawal.

"It's a blow to my personal advocacy," said Mayuga, a member of the Amnesty International since his college days in UP. "AI fights for civil and political rights as well as gay rights. And our show encourages those people in the closet to come out."

"I feel sorry for him," said Siwa, a self-confessed bisexual, of the host who backed out. "I know he'll regret it."

JM comes in

Starting Sept. 4, at 11 p.m., Mayuga and Siwa were joined by former "The Probe Team" reporter JM Cobarrubias in hosting what the network called the first magazine TV show that showcases the lifestyle of gays, lesbians and the like.

In the pilot episode, the hosts came out through different situations that were pre-taped. Siwa stopped a hip-hop party to announce that she digs both men and women. Cobarrubias told his sister that he's gay. Mayuga confessed to a former schoolmate who's a member of a strict religious group.

"The people in the bar just hooted and cheered for me," said Siwa of her revelation.

Mayuga, 26, shared that he found it difficult to find a friend to come out to because he already confronted his sexuality issue six years ago. "I even had a heart-to-heart talk with my grandmother about it," he said. "So when I told that friend, whom I hadn't seen for six years, she wasn't surprised anymore. She knew all along that I was gay. I also found out that she was praying for me to change. Maybe that's why I haven't been lucky with my love life all these years. So I told her to stop praying for me."

Unmistakable chemistry

People aren't shocked anymore to learn that he's gay, said Cobarrubias. Even his former boss, Che-Che Lazaro, had known that fact about him from the start and she's been supportive of him. "People aren't stupid so you can't fool them," Cobarrubias maintained.

The three hosts work well together, as INQUIRER Entertainment found out during the taping of the show's opening billboard, or OBB, two Saturdays ago at the Unitel studios. While Cobarrubias hammed it up for the camera for his shower scene, Mayuga and Siwa rehearsed their spiels together and occasionally glanced at the monitor where shots of Cobarrubias were being shown.

They credit having different backgrounds for the unmistakable chemistry. Cobarrubias is the only one who works in media. Siwa is a fashion model who has her own modeling agency and events management company. She's also an actress and dreams of making it to Hollywood.

Mayuga is a hotel and restaurant management graduate who worked as a flight attendant for Northwest for four years. He also tried his hand at theater ushering and acting, with a part in the musical "Urinetown" as his latest credit. He is now studying to be a hair and makeup guru at Franck Provost.

"I admit being the *parlorista* in the group," he grinned. Or in this "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" age, Jigs is the Kyan Douglas of "Out."

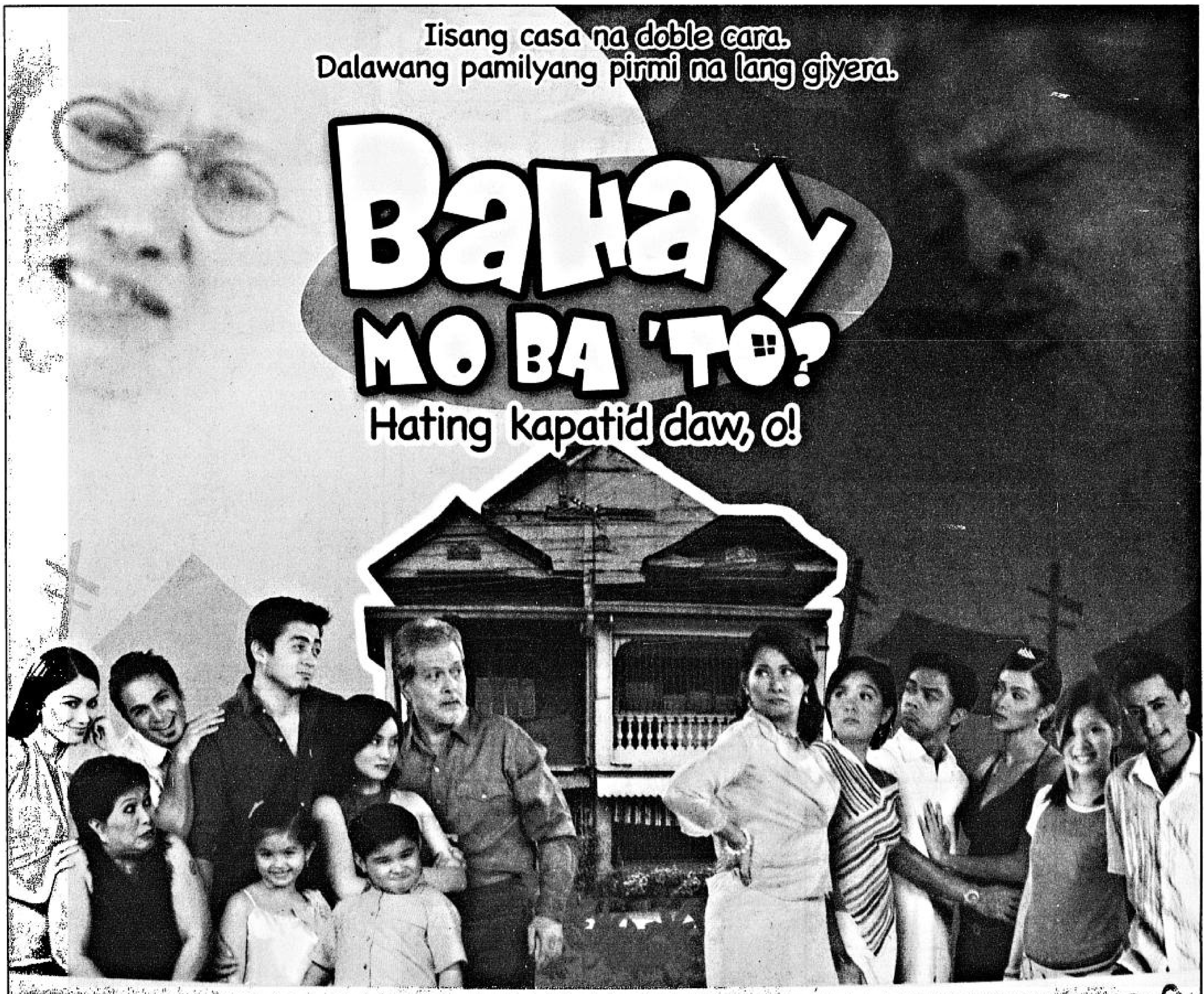
Hush-hush auditions

"Out" executive producer Esguerra shared that the production discovered these fresh talents through a hush-hush series of auditions. "We had a total of 60 gay men and a lot of lesbians who came from all walks of life," he recalled. "But the idea was conceived last year by a group of straight men from the news and public affairs department during a brainstorming session."

Although the core of the production is made up of gay men, they also have heterosexual writers, said Esguerra. "The hosts and staff underwent a sexuality orientation to have a better understanding of gay issues."

The other portions of the premiere episode featured a gay fan who met his idol, a straight guy who experienced the homosexual lifestyle, a game that uncovered who among three males is the gay one, and a makeover session, among others.

"Out" will also tackle serious topics like the realities that gays and lesbians experience day by day. "But we're not radical," Esguerra clarified. "Everybody can appreciate our show."



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Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
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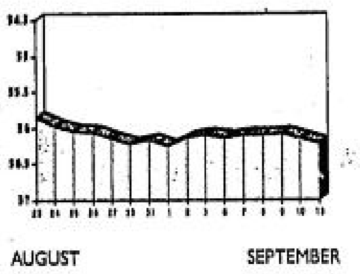


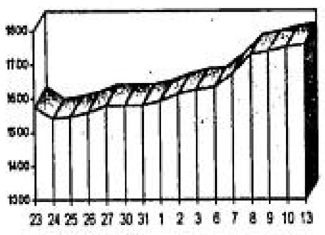
P 56.21 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 13, 2004

Y 109.62 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 13, 2004

GOLD: $400.70-401.20
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 13, 2004

STOCK MARKET

Shares close higher



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices closed mixed yesterday, with the main index up 0.4 percent to extend recent gains on the back of strong interest in the telecom stocks while the broader market was lower, dealers said.

The market notably came off its highs as investors took some profits on the other blue chips amid concerns stocks have reached or are approaching overbought levels.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 7.02 points to 1,758.62 after trading between 1,751.60 and 1,771.70. This was the highest close since April 10, 2000, when it ended at 1,796.66.

Losers led gainers 56 to 28, with 32 stocks unchanged.

Volume was 2.89 billion shares worth P1.05 billion after 2.6 billion shares worth P1.08 billion on Friday.

The all-shares index was up 2.67 points at 1,066.73 while the commercial-industrial index advanced 22.05 to 2,814.74, property fell 1.75 to 586.02, mining was down 35.58 to 1,824.07, oil lost 0.09 at 1.66 and banking and finance fell 7.18 to 494.02.

"Investors are still buying select blue chips, given their strong earnings potential. This is especially true for the telecom sector," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities Inc. AFP

By Abigail L. Ho

MOTORISTS may now heave a sigh of relief as no new oil price increases are seen for the rest of the month, with moderate increases or even rollbacks seen next month.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said that due to the recent downtrend in world oil prices, with the benchmark Dubai crude shedding more than $3 from the August average, an increase in local pump prices in the remaining two weeks of September was not likely.

"Oil companies have been quick to raise prices in the past weeks. With world oil prices already softening, we urge all oil firms to consequently recognize this downtrend and follow Petron's lead," he said in a statement yesterday.

Petron Corp., the country's leading oil firm, said it would hold off any further price increases if the downtrend in global prices would be sustained up to the end of the month.

According to documents from the DOE, Dubai crude price has been steadily declining over the past 12 days, hitting $34.20 a barrel last Saturday.

The September average for Dubai crude now stood at $35.23 a barrel from the August average of $38.55. A record high of $41.26 a barrel was posted last Aug. 20.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products had likewise dropped to an average of $48.15 a barrel this month from a high $51.50 in August.

MOPS-based diesel, on the other hand, slightly rose to an average of $52.26 a barrel in September from $51.66 last month.

Based on these prices, Consumer and Oil Price Watch chair Raul Concepcion said in a separate statement that oil firms might be able to hold off any further increases, using margins from gasoline to offset losses from diesel.

"While it is still early, COPW is optimistic that we have reached the peak levels of oil prices in August and the increase in October will be moderate or (there may) even be a rollback," he said.

The consumer price watchdog's computations showed that oil refiners Petron and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. still had underrecoveries of 63 centavos a liter for diesel and overrecoveries of 91 centavos a liter for gasoline.

The new players, on the other hand, had January-August underrecoveries of 47 centavos a liter for gasoline and P2.14 a liter for diesel.

Perez agreed that oil firms still had some unrecovered costs, but he urged them not to immediately raise prices so as to keep local pump prices steady.

"Computations show that there are still unrecovered costs on the part of the oil companies after world oil prices skyrocketed in the last few months," he said. "However, our efforts to implement frequent adjustments, up or down, to immediately reflect the trends in the oil market prove to be advantageous on our side. We expect the oil companies to keep their prices at steady level."

DOTC warns against cloning of SIM cards

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communication yesterday warned the public against a scam that involves the cloning of SIM cards, allowing syndicates to make fraudulent calls using the account of unsuspecting cellular phone subscribers.

Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza said he had directed the National Telecommunications Commission to investigate whether syndicates could indeed make phone calls and charge these to prepaid and postpaid accounts of legitimate subscribers.

He also urged telecom carriers to cooperate fully with the authorities in resolving the problem.

CELLPHONE
THEFT
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Inq7 Tambuli

Smart Communications Inc. yesterday assured its network had not detected any attempt from syndicates to make fraudulent calls using cloned SIM cards. Smart's head of corporate affairs, Ramon Isberto, said they would fully cooperate with the DOTC and the NTC.

Globe Telecom, the pioneer of GSM or global system for mobile in the country, said it had never experienced any cloning in its system. GSM is the digital mobile system used by Globe over the last 10 years.

"GSM is encrypted and so it could not be cloned. We have been using this technology for 10 years and so far we have not experienced any cloning. But we will see how this alleged cloning develops and we would cooperate," said Jones Campos, Globe assistant vice president.

SIM is the subscriber identification module or the small, rectangular electronic card usually found in a slot near the battery of a cell phone. It is a smart card that stores a secret key used to authenticate mobile phone customers and to charge calls made by them. It also stores other information like the contact numbers of subscribers.

Mendoza said the agency had received reports wherein data from legitimate SIM cards were copied into deactivated SIM cards bought off the streets.

This could be a reason why the buyback of SIM cards are becoming very popular. Mendoza surmised that syndicates buy used and damaged SIM cards and then erase their contents for use as "blank" cards where the information of legitimate SIM cards can be stored.

"We need to fully investigate this matter although telecom

DOTC/B2

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Support and resistance

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Ron Nathan

WHEN the President visited China, extraordinary security measures were undertaken. Even the nannies rode in AMAH—plated cars.

Continuing the saga of my hammer toe, it has to be first massaged with cream, then pulled until I scream, then a splint is put underneath and tied around with gauze.

After five days of trying to walk with the splint, I finally started to limp. This is the first time in my life that I have gone limp and it is very embarrassing.

My wife, bless her, pretended not to notice, but I am worried that it might spread to my limp nodes; that could be armful.

I also caught a streaming cold from a taxi driver who sneezed continuously throughout the 40-minute journey home. I called that doctor and told him I had a temperature of 39.5. He said, "If it reaches 40, SELL."

I have been taking loads of Vitamin C, nasal decongestant, Echinacea and been rubbed down with Vicks, all to no avail. So the doctor advised me to run up and down the street until I was sweating, then stand in the rain wearing nothing but my shorts.

I said, "Doctor, I will get pneumonia." "Yes," he said, "but I know how to cure pneumonia." His partner, Sarah Bellum, is a brain surgeon.

A lady walked into a sex shop and asked for a vibrator. "Take your pick," said the salesman. "There's plenty on the wall." "I'll have that one," she said. "Sorry, Madam, but that is the fire extinguisher."

More trivia:

Old Senators tend to Babylon.

I couldn't decide whether to accept a job selling mattresses, so I decided to sleep on it.

A lot of people in the provinces have high IQs, yet the population is dense.

Did you hear about the guy who had his left side removed? He's all right now.

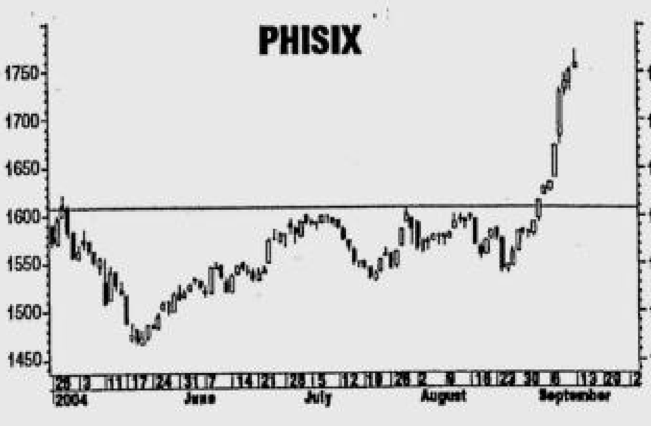
Will this computer last 10 years? Obsoletely.

If you suffer from insomnia, sleep on the edge of the bed. You will soon drop off.

What is black and white and red all over. My jokes

I promised to write about support and resistance last week, and I would like you to look at the chart of the PHISIX this year.

You will see a line stretching across the chart at exactly 1,600. Notice that the index touched this line several times but was forced back. Finally, when it broke through, about 10 days ago, the index ascended 10 percent in a week. Exactly what does this mean?



I only believe in rules if they have a mathematical or psychological basis. Support and resistance have a basis in psychology, but more on stocks than indices.

It is no coincidence that TEL made several unsuccessful attempts to break the P1,300 resistance and when it finally did so, the resistance on the PHISIX was broken simultaneously. This is because TEL is a major constituent of the index and is also usually the most heavily traded stock.

TEL, however, is not a good example because it also trades in New York overnight as American Deposit Receipts.

So let us choose an imaginary stock trading at 70 centavos. It rises to P1 but at that price, there are lots of sellers because people tend to place BUY and SELL orders at round figures.

You are somewhat annoyed when it falls back to 80 centavos and you vow to get out the next time it reaches P1. It does so, but it is obviously in an up trend because it is making higher lows, so you cancel your order. It now retreats to 90 centavos and this time, you tell your broker to SELL at P1 and ignore any attempt to cancel it.

Exactly the same thoughts are going on inside the heads of thousands of other investors so that number of would-be sellers is steadily increasing and the amount of stock on offer is pretty substantial.

Nevertheless, buyers came in at 70, 80 and 90 centavos, so they are getting more aggressive. With buyers building positions and sellers waiting to get out at P1, something has to give. It is the irresistible force against the immovable object.

Either the stock will never succeed in breaking P1, in which case that will be the top or the price will suddenly be P1 to P1.02.

If the latter happens, it means that the buyers have won the tug-of-war. It should now be easy for the stock to move higher quickly. The selling has been absorbed and the buyers are now in charge.

We will now look at support, which is exactly the reverse of resistance.

A stock falls to 50 centavos and you consider buying it, but before you can do so, it rebounds to 60 centavos. Somewhat irritated, you wait for it to fall back to 50 centavos.

It does so, but the market does not look too good, so you do nothing. It goes up to 55 centavos, but this time, you place a BUY order at 50 centavos. You and thousands of others do not intend to miss it a third time.

So a large buying position has been built up at 50 centavos, another round number. Either there are too many buyers, in which case 50 centavos will be the bottom, or the selling will be strong enough to push the price to 49-50 centavos.

If this happens, then the sellers have overwhelmed the buyers and are now in control. The stock will surely fall swiftly as all the buyers' order has been filled, leaving only sellers.

So buying on a breakout, or selling on a breakdown makes sense in the real world and therefore, it works. Although SUPPORT and RESISTANCE are mirror images of each other, there is one important difference.

There is no such thing as a market that is so strong and nobody wants to take a profit. However, there is a market that is so bad and nobody wants to get in.

Remember what happened after the 9/11 attack, two years ago; all markets that were still trading simply collapsed for two months. So RESISTANCE is more reliable than SUPPORT.

A number of readers have asked me to write about various indicators and candlesticks, but only a small percentage of readers subscribe to a chart service, and without the charts in front of you, the articles would be meaningless.

The degree of risk hit a high of 99.6 and yesterday fell to 96.9 despite the market closing higher. As this indicator leads the market by one day, I have gone totally liquid. Only GLO and TEL might be able to resist the trend. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

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Mondragon postpones annual meet

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

MONDRAGON International Philippines Inc. has again postponed its stockholders' meeting to give way to talks with potential investors.

Mondragon chair and chief executive officer, Jose Antonio U. Gonzales, told the Philippine Stock Exchange that the company could not hold the meeting as scheduled yesterday as it was in talks with investors and the government.

These talks would hopefully lead to normalized operations at the 240-hectare Mimosa Leisure Estate.

"While we have been holding negotiations with the investors, they have asked for more time in view of what they call political uncertainty and country risk," Gonzales said in a letter to the PSE.

The stockholders' meeting was supposed to be held yesterday, but has now been moved to March 14 next year.

This was the fourth time since last year that Gonzalez called for the postponement of the stockholders meeting.

State-led Clark Development Corp. (CDC) took over the Mimosa estate in 1999 after Mondragon failed to settle back rentals with CDC and other liabilities with the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

Mondragon also owed creditors some P7 billion.

DOTC warns against cloning

From page B1

companies have assured us that the GSM fraud-prevention framework of cellular phones is very difficult to tamper with," he said.

But he pointed out that hackers and tech-savvy criminals have also been known to crack security measures whether on computers, software inscription methods or phones.

Mendoza noted the swiftness by which hackers were able to crack the copy-protection system of DVD and VCD discs, resulting to the current huge problem of audio and video piracy.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 13, 2004)

NAME	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	74,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46.5	46.5	45.5	46	2,257,200
China Banking Corp.	535	535	535	535	500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	42	42	41.5	41.5	17,800
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.5	1,700,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28	27.5	27.5	953,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	30,000
Security Bank Corp.	23	23	22.25	22.25	21,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	25.5	25.5	25	25	39,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2330	2330	2330	2330	20
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	130,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1555	1565	1555	1565	3,970
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.5	21.5	21.25	21.25	18,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.68	0.69	0.68	0.69	200,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1040	1095	1040	1090	214,300
Ipeople Inc.	1.6	1.62	1.6	1.62	88,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.048	0.05	0.048	0.049	9,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	1,400,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	110,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.8	2.85	2.75	2.8	7,643,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	440,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1410	1450	1410	1445	157,940
Ivantage Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.66	0.66	3,200,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.012	258,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	16	16	15.75	15.75	168,800
Manila Electric Co. B	24.75	24.75	23.5	23.5	1,852,900
Petron Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2,007,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	480,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	100,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.18	2.18	40,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	4.6	4.6	4.55	4.55	963,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	110,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	500,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	5,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.48	2.55	2.38	2.4	3,040,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	25.5	26.5	25.5	26	305,300
RFM Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.75	0.76	210,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58.5	58.5	58	58	30,700
San Miguel Corp. B	69.5	70.5	69.5	70	89,900
Universal Robina Corp.	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	300,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	490,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	30,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.4	6.5	6.2	6.3	10,724,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.35	3.4	3.35	3.4	60,000
Alo Net Holdings Inc.	0.034	0.036	0.03	0.033	65,100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	205,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.19	30,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	20,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1	1	1	1	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	16	16	15.25	15.25	5,200
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.57	0.57	17,850,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	660,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.3	0.3	14,970,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.17	0.17	0.15	0.16	2,150,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.2	2.22	2.06	2.1	4,529,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	1,000,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4	4	4	4	40,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	28	28	27	27	131,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.0775	0.0775	11,300,000
Ionics Inc.	1.9	2.08	1.9	1.94	1,167,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.86	1.78	1.82	180,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.44	1.52	1.34	1.34	468,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.22	1.22	3,680,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.59	0.61	0.54	0.55	105,170,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.17	0.17	110,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.165	0.175	0.16	0.16	1,650,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	560,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	6,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.17	0.17	11,190,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	380,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.74	1.74	387,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.02	1.04	0.98	0.98	222,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.07	0.07	2,000,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.74	0.75	0.73	0.73	2,950,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.56	0.59	0.56	0.57	1,460,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.38	0.34	0.36	4,370,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21.75	21.75	21.25	21.25	13,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,800
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.3	6.5	6.2	6.2	8,871,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	8,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.41	0.43	0.38	0.41	53,690,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.155	0.165	0.145	0.145	2,370,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.33	0.33	21,760,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.06	24,167,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.075	0.075	1,400,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.25	0.26	0.22	0.22	8,770,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	240,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	5,177,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	54,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3	3	3	3	2,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	500,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	600,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	36,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	125,900,000
Omico Corp.	0.007	0.0075	0.006	0.0065	1,352,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.035	0.035	0.032	0.032	3,100,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	90,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	400,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.014	0.012	0.012	111,400,000
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	72,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	95,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	28,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	50,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	79,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.75	4,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	300,000

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **Export and Industry Bank** were Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., Reynaldo David, Benjamin Castillo, Jose Antonio, Dionisio Carpio Jr., Josue Camba Jr., Bobby Sai Chong Cehng, Donald Dee, Edna Daguinsin-Reyes, Pauline Tan, Victor Te, Charles Wong Say Hing, Alfredo Yao, Jeffrey Yao, Henneenegildo Zap, Paterno Dizon, Francis Lee and Oscar de Venecia.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Realty & Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 29, 4 p.m. at Ballroom A of The Plaza Penthouse, PSE Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of Sept. 15 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PRIME Gaming Philippines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 28, 11 a.m. at the Manila Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati Ave., Makati City. Sept. 28 was set as the record date to determine the stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the said meeting. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

September 13, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.816926722	1.000000	56.1160
Japan	Yen	0.007419	0.009081	0.5096
United Kingdom	Pound	1.462626	1.790400	100.4701
Hongkong	Dollar	0.104738	0.128210	7.1946
Switzerland	Franc	0.649695	0.795292	44.6286
Canada	Dollar	0.633768	0.775795	43.5345
Singapore	Dollar	0.480461	0.588132	33.0036
Australia	Dollar	0.570042	0.697788	39.1571
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.16703	2.652661	148.8567
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.217847	0.266667	14.9643
Brunei	Dollar	0.479052	0.586407	32.9068
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Brazil	REAL	0.281796	0.344947	19.3570
Denmark	Kroner	0.13452	0.164666	9.2404
India	Rupee	0.017686	0.021650	1.2149
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T-bill rates rise, 182-day note nixed

By Michelle V. Remo

THE LOCAL financial market yesterday pushed up the cost of the government's short-term borrowings, effectively raising the rates of the 91- and 364-day treasury bills.

Also, the Bureau of Treasury yesterday rejected bids for the 182-day debt paper.

The 91-day T-bill rate, the benchmark used by banks in pricing loans, rose by 28 basis points to 7.718 percent. The rate for the 364-day debt paper increased by 20.4 basis points to 9.975 percent.

"(The bidders) are still giving the same reasons for trying to seek higher rates," said National Treasurer Mina Figueroa, referring to the government's fiscal problem, the aggressive movement of inflation, and talks on another US Federal Reserve rate hike.

Figueroa said in a press briefing after yesterday's auction that the Treasury set the cap at 7.75 percent for the 91-day T-bill, and at 10 percent for the 364-day T-bill. This meant that the committee would not accept bids higher than the said cap rates.

"The bids for the 182-day T-bill were really unreasonably high," Figueroa said. "Considering that the offering was even under-subscribed, we decided to reject the bids."

Bids for the six-month debt paper stood at only P3.26 billion, or lower than the government's offering of P3.5 billion.

Had the auction committee accepted the bids for the six-month debt paper, its rate could have increased by 49.9 basis points to 8.954. With the rejection of the bids, the rate for the 182-day T-bill will remain at 8.455 percent.

While banks lacked interest on the 182-day T-bill, tenders for the 91- and 364-day T-bills were higher than the government's borrowing requirement. Bids for the three-month debt paper stood at P8.4 billion, or almost double the P4.5-billion offering of the government. Bids for the one-year T-bill stood higher at P4.545 billion compared with the P3-billion offering of the government.

The Treasury is no longer using secondary market rates as a basis to set T-bill and treasury bond rates because some banks only play around with the secondary market rates by artificially raising it, Figueroa said. Knowing the Treasury uses as benchmark the rates from the secondary market, banks tend to increase it, she said.

The treasurer also said her office is conducting an evaluation performance of all dealers of government securities. Those who will be found to have been inactively participating in auctions, or those that have sold only a very small volume of T-bills and T-bonds, will lose their accreditation, she added.

"We are going over their performance for the past one-and-a-half years," Figueroa said. "We are doing this because we noticed that some only participate in auctions when they think the rates are going up. As accredited dealers, they have the responsibility to actively sell government debt papers."

There are close to 40 members of the Government Securities Eligible Dealers (GSEDs). Figueroa said the treasury is looking at delisting five to seven inactive dealers.

The Treasury would decide before the end of the week the volume that a securities dealer should have traded to remain in the GSED list, Figueroa said.

BSP set to issue Basle measure ahead of time

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is set to fast-track its issuance of the Basle 2 guidelines calling for stricter risk-based capital adequacy requirements to give local banks more time to build up their resources.

In a forum held by the Professional Risk Managers' International Association and the Asian Institute of Management yesterday, BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said that they would be issuing the Basle 2 guidelines by next year, instead of end-2006.

The issuance would give the banks two years to prepare, instead of one year, for the shift to Basle 2 guidelines in 2007, Tetangco said.

"Basle 2 provides the necessary risk-reducing tool to promote long-term stability and profitability," Tetangco said.

According to the BSP official, the first Basle framework—drawn up by the Basle Committee of the Bank of International Settlements (BIS)—has been successful in boosting capital adequacies across the globe.

The BIS is considered the central bank of all central banks in the world.

However, Tetangco said the risk weights under the original framework had an adverse impact on the profitability of some banks, leading to misallocation of resources that in turn infringed on economic growth.

As such, the BSP will have to introduce guidelines that must take into account the readiness of local banking institutions before the Basle measure is applied, Tetangco said. The early issuance of guidelines likewise will allow smaller institutions, like thrift banks and rural banks, to acquire breathing space.

DA, DTI to gain access to IFM

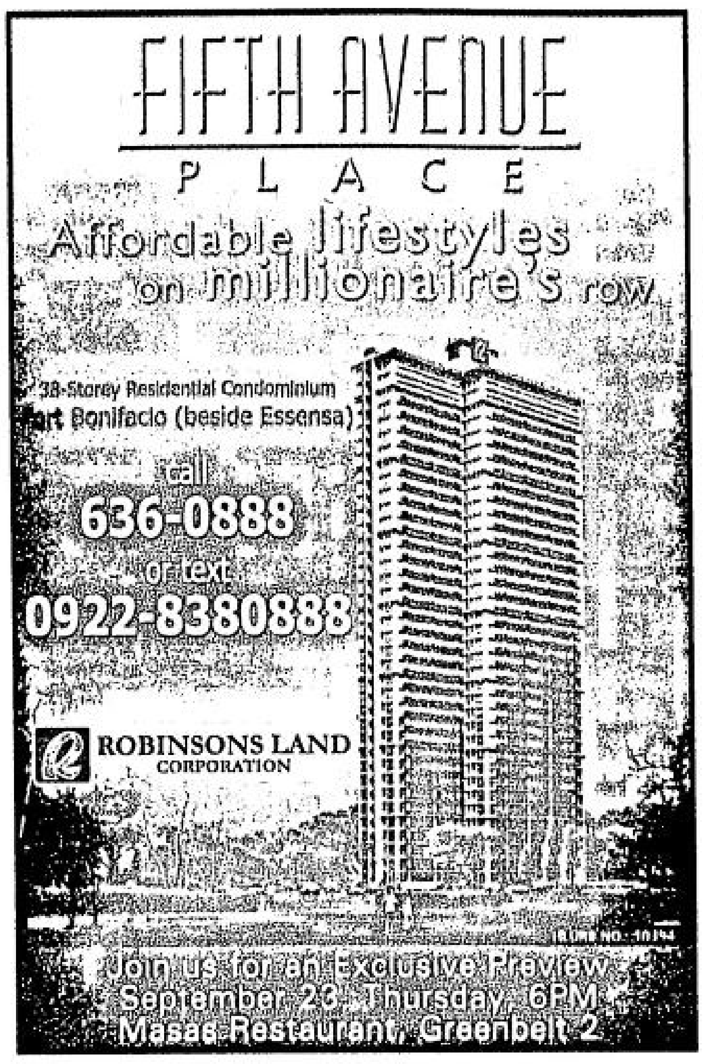
THE DEPARTMENTS of Agriculture and Trade and Industry may soon have access to the Inward Forward Manifest (IFM) document which only the Bureau of Customs is currently being furnished.

The Multi-Sectoral Coalition Against Smuggling (MCAS) during its inaugural meeting on Sept. 8 recommended that the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) be provided copies of the manifest. Present during the meeting were high-level representatives from government and the private sector.

The Inward Forward Manifest is a document that lists the goods on board a specific vessel coming in from abroad. The BoC is furnished an electronic copy of the manifest at least two days before the shipment's arrival. Customs officials also acquire a hard copy upon arrival of the ship.

At present, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Industry do not have access to the manifest and have no way of knowing whether there are discrepancies between the IFM list and the goods being shipped in from abroad, as reported by Customs officials.

"There is currently at least a $10-billion discrepancy between the amount of imported goods reported by the government as compared to the amount reported as exported to the Philippines by our trading partners," the MCAS Secretariat reported. "If the DA and DTI have access to IFMs, they may be able to determine which goods are covered by IFMs but not reported as imports by the Bureau of Customs. These unreported imports may be part of the $10 billion in smuggled goods that enter the country."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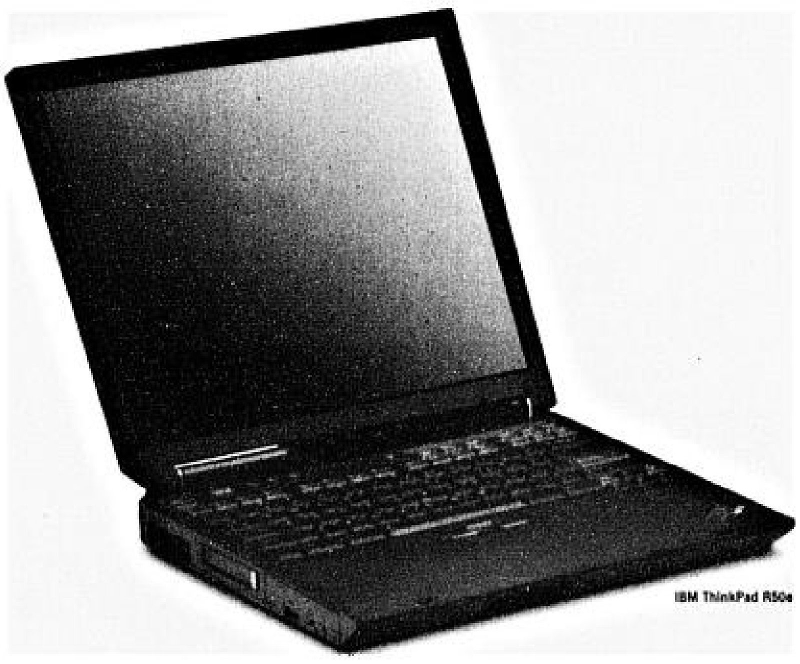

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the deceased ELISEA MARQUEZ LAYGO was the subject of extra judicial settlement by her heirs as per Doc. No. 6561, Page No. 0178, Book No. XXV, Series of 2004 before Notary Public Estanislao B. Austria of San Francisco County, California, USA, July 8, 2004 as authenticated by J. Eduardo Malaya, Philippine Consul for Northern California, USA, July 16, 2004 and as per Doc. No. 005965, Series of 2004 before Notary Public Patrice M. Saccomanni in the State of New York, July 30, 2004 as authenticated by Maria Lourdes C. Legaspi, Philippine Consul for the consular district of New York, USA, August 2, 2004.
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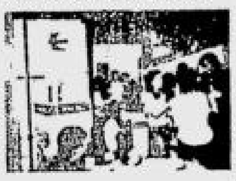
5th HEALTH & ORGANIC SHOW 2004
November 05-07, 2004
Hall 3, 5thFloor, SM Megatrade Hall
Edsa, Mandaluyong City, Philippines

"*Your Health, Your Wealth*"

A healthy body, a well-balanced lifestyle, clean air and environment inside and outside our home...in this highly urbanized community that we live in where pollution is almost uncontrollable, and SARS endangering our lives...this is what each and every Filipino craves for and gives highest priority to achieve...

Promote healthy lifestyle and expand your market in this annual health show:



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A perfect launching venue for health and wellness products and services

Introduce your products and services during the 3-day information-packed program at the Event Activity Area. Get trade opportunities, industry trends, and market developments...

What's on Exhibit
- Natural/Herbal/Organic Food Products
- BFAD/DOH Approved Medicines Consumer Health Care
- Wellness/Lifestyle Products
- Exercise/Fitness and Healthy Living
- Cosmetics, Skin, Hair, and Personal Care Products
- HMO, Medical Insurance, Hospitals, & Medical Clinic
- Medical/Sports Equipment & Hardware
- Alternative Medicine
- Alternative Medicine Practices

Highlights of Activities
- A showcase of different health, wellness, & beauty products by over 60 companies.
- Free lectures by medical/health experts
- Free demonstration on health exercises
- Free consultations/clinics by practitioners such as iridology, reflexology, facial services, bone density test, eye check -up, etc.
- Hands-on demonstration on different products and services.
- Business opportunity seminars by leading health companies.
- Product launching and food tasting

Expected Visitors

Store Merchandisers, Distributors, Wholesalers, Purchasing Managers, Foreign and Local-based Trade Buyers, Retailers, Catering and Food Companies, Medical Practitioners, Healthcare Specialists, Hospital Operators, Health Workers, Specialty Stores Operators, Entrepreneurs, Health Buffs, General Public

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Department of Health
Center for Health Development III
MARIVELES MENTAL WARD
Mariveles, Bataan 2105
Tel. Fax: (047) 935-4063; (047) 935-4613
Trunkline: (047) 935-4617

SENTRONG SIGLA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Mariveles Mental Ward in Mariveles, Bataan is inviting all interested accredited contractors by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) classified as Small B Category to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

Project Title	Apprbved Budget for Contract
• **Repair of Observation Building**	Php 808,206.89
• **Record's Officer Room**	Php 34,803.95
• **Repair of the Doctors' Quarters (Phase II)**	Php 231,075.28

The total ABC for the projects is Php 1,074,086.12 funded by the hospital income. The complete set of documents may be issued to the eligible contractor upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Four Thousand Pesos (Php 4,000.00) at the Office of the Supply Officer.

Schedule of Activities

1.	Submission of Letter of Intent and issuance of Pre-qualification documents	– Sept. 14-20 Supply Officer's Office
2.	Submission of Eligibilty Statement	– Sept. 21-27 Supply Officer's Office
3.	Listing of Eligible Contractors	– Oct. 4 BAC Chairperson's Office
4.	Issuance of Bid Documents	– Oct. 11-15 Supply Officer's Office
5.	Pre-Bid Conference	– Oct. 20, 9:30 a.m. Conference Room
6.	Deadline for Submission of Bids	– Oct. 28, 9:30 a.m. Conference Room
7.	Opening of Bids	– Oct. 28, 10 a.m. Conference Room

For further inquiries, please call the BAC Chairperson/Secretariat at Tel. No (047) 935-4613 or 935-4617.

The MMW reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality herein and/or accept such bids or offers that may be considered most advantageous to the government.

Mariveles, Bataan September 1, 2004

(Sgd.) Ma. Lourdes Labarcon-Evangelista, MD
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – September 6 & 13, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that the following persons had already **RESIGNED** and therefore **NOT CONNECTED** anymore with **OSM SHIPPING PHILS. INC.** located at 2/F Security Bank Bldg., St. Peter St. cor. Dr. A. Santos Ave., Parañaque City, Metro Manila effective on dates stated below:

MARONI P. GALLEGO	**– VP-Operations**	**– 19 June 2003**
FERNANDO M. MAGDAEL	**– Crewing Manager**	**– 31 July 2003**
ARTURO J. DELGADO JR.	**– Crewing Manager**	**– 15 June 2004**

This **AD** is in compliance with **Section 12, Rule II, Book II of the Revised P.O.E.A. Rules and Regulations.**

(PDI-Sept. 14, 2004)

VIVENTIS
SEARCH

Viventis Search supports PMAP AC

Viventis Search, Inc. inks its sponsorship of the 41st Annual Conference (AC) of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) last Sept. 6 at the Viventis offices in Ortigas. Photo shows Leah Bautista, member, board of directors (left); Paulo Tatad, president (2nd from left); and Yu Ming Chin, executive director (Right) of Viventis Solutions, Inc. Lina A. Aseneta, FPM, PMAP AC ways and means sub-committee chair (3rd from left) gladly accepts sponsorship in behalf of PMAP. The 41st PMAP AC, slated for Sept. 29, 30 and Oct. 1, 2004 at the CAP-John Hay Trade and Cultural Center, Loakan Road, Baguio City, is expected to be attended by over 1,000 business owners, people managers, HR practitioners, and students.

41
PMAP
GO FOR TH
BETTER FASTER HAPPIE

Business Profiles and Spectrum Security support PMAP AC

Two more companies partner with the 41st Annual Conference of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) and ink their sponsorships last Sept. 3 at the PMAP Center in Mandaluyong. Photo shows (from left) Lee Valeros *(corporate planning and development specialist of Business Profiles, Inc.)*, Grace Alcaraz *(office manager of Spectrum Security Services, Inc.)*, Lina A. Aseneta, FPM *(PMAP-AC ways and means sub-committee chair)* and Gerardo A. Plana, FPM, IPMA-CP *(PMAP executive director)*. The 41st PMAP AC, slated for Sept. 29, 30 and Oct. 1, 2004 at the CAP-John Hay Trade and Cultural Center, Loakan Road, Baguio City, is expected to be attended by over 1,000 business owners, people managers, HR practitioners, and students.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax: Nr 421-2327; 911-6001 loc 6592
www.info.com.ph/~afpmod
pid@info.com.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILTY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the engineering, furnishing, installing and testing (EFI&T) and commissioning of the **AFP Fixed Communications System (FCS)** with an approved budget of **Four Hundred Forty Seven Million Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Pesos (Php 447,360,000.00)** chargeable against the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

Only bids from suppliers who are ***manufacturers and/or system integrators*** of said system shall be entertained.

Bid documents shall be available for issuance starting ***September 06, 2004*** until ***September 27, 2004*** during office hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM) at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ***Forty Thousand Pesos*** (Php 40,000.00). The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP.

Representatives are required to present a ***Special Power of Attorney (SPA)*** issued by the prospective Bidder before issuance of the Bid Documents and all other transactions thereto.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on ***September 21,2004*** at ***2:00 PM*** (local time) at the Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders are encouraged to submit queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Registered bidders shall be required to visit and/or conduct survey on the proposed project sites on a schedule determined by the BAC.

Deadline for submission of 1st stage bids is scheduled on ***October 28,2004*** at ***9:00 AM*** (local time) at the Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City and shall immediately be followed by the 1st Stage Opening of Bids.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) ASEC JOSE N. FERRER. JR.
Chairman, DND-BAC

(PDI – September 6 & 14, 2004)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
PANAY DIESEL POWER PLANT
Dingle, Iloilo City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) NPC, PDPP, Dingle, Iloilo invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirement/s:

Date / Time & Place of Bidding	October 14, 2004, 9:00 A.M. NPC, PDPP, Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo
PR. No./Inquiry No.	PB104-2004-239 PB104-2004-300 PB104-2004-316 PDPI-2004-381
Specification	**PR#PB104-2004-239** 1. Distributing Flow Indicator 2. Cell Flow Indicator 3. D.C. Voltmeter 4. Ammeter For Marine growth preventer #1. N.B. - Site Inspection is a must. **PR#PB104-2004-300** 1. Temperature Controller, Automatic Type NS TM-732 Scale Range 0–100 degrees Centigrade Air Supply Pressure 1.4 kg/cm² Control Pressure – 0.2 1.0 kgf/cm² 2. Temperature Controller, Automatic Type NS TM-732 Scale Range 0 150 degrees Centigrade Air Supply Pressure 1.4 kgf/cm² Control Pressure – 0.2 – 1.0 kg/cm² **PR#PB104-2004-316** JOB ORDER To supply labor, materials/consumables, tools and Equipment for the repair and building up, precision/accurate machining of piston crown to restore tolerable clearance. **PR#PDPI-2004-381** JOB ORDER: To supply labor, materials, equipment and technical skills in the fabrication of and installation of two (2) units 75,000 liters Sludge Tank to its pedestal at PDPP, Dingle, Iloilo.
Approved Budget	PB104-2004-239 – P 653,600.00 PB104-2004-300 – P 960,000.00 PB104-2004-316 – P 945,000.00 PDPI-2004-381 – P 703,500.00
Pre-Bid Conference	September 17, 2004, 2:00 PM at PDPP Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo
Submission of First & Second Envelope, Opening /Evaluation of First Envelope (Technical Documents)	October 1, 2004, 9:00 AM at PDPP Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo
Opening of Second Envelope (Financial Documents)	October 14, 2004, 9:00 AM at PDPP Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo

A Two Envelope Mode of Procurement shall be observed.

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from Mr. Rolando T. Bulfa – BAC Chairman/Manager Admin/Finance PDPP, Dingle, Iloilo with telefax number 351-0450 upon presentation of this publication and payment of non-refundable fee of Php1,000.00 starting September 7, 2004 to September 28, 2004, from 10:00 Am to 12:00 NN and from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM.

Bid proposals and other tender documents shall be opened in the presence of the prospective bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with IRR of R.A. 9184. Pass/Fail evaluation shall be observed.

A bidders Bond equivalent to 1% is required in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check; bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit, 1.5% Bank Guarantee; 2.5% Surety GSIS surety bond.

A Performance Bond equivalent to 30% of the total contract amount, penal and callable on demand issued by the GSIS.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) NELSON J. HOMENA
Plant Manager, PDPP

(PDI-Sept. 7 & 14, 2004)

NFA conducts training on food accelerated shelf life testing

THE FOOD Development Center (FDC) of the National Food Authority (NFA) will conduct a training course on "Accelerated Shelf Life Testing of Food Products" on Oct. 13 to 15 at the FDC Training Center, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila. The training course will cover accelerated shelf life testing methods on temperature increase and moisture gain in packaged foods. Participants will learn how to make an early estimate of shelf life. Emphasis will be on the understanding of principles, design of test and factors affecting cost of the test. The course fee is P5,300 per participant inclusive of a training manual, lunches, snacks and a shuttle bus service from Ayala Center, Makati City to FDC and back. For further inquiries, please contact Amelia S. Bautista at 838-4015; 838-4561; 838-4478, or at fax no. 838-4016 and 838-4692 and at e-mail address infofdc@pacific.net.ph

Send your resumé instantly.
JOB Market
www.jobmarketonline.com

IBB

Marketing Assistant, Philippines

The International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB), a part of the United States Government, is looking for a Marketing Assistant in Manila to perform a wide variety of routine marketing related activities. The IBB includes the Voice of America radio and television service, one of the largest newsgathering organizations in the world and a leader in providing news and entertainment programs around the globe.

Applicant MUST have an in-depth knowledge of the media environment in the Philippines; 3 years experience working for a broadcast station; excellent interpersonal and negotiation skills; be able to travel occasionally; be fluent in spoken and written English; be able to work independently with little supervision. Applicant must be mature, resourceful, have initiative, etc.

Responsibilities: Assist Regional Marketing Director (RMO) in Bangkok; Maintain close contacts with regional/U.S. IBB offices; Update IBB affiliate database; Monitor and research media developments in the Philippines; monitor VOA broadcast on various stations in the Philippines; arrange for equipment installation; write weekly reports; negotiate rebroadcast agreements & perform other duties as assigned.

Fax your detailed resumé and letter to Joyce Ngoh at 66-2-205-5707, send by email to jmngoh@ibb-bkk.org or mail it to *IBB, The Millennia Bldg., Rm 1501, 62 Langsuan Rd., Bangkok 10330, Thailand.* Applications must be received by close of business on September 24, 2004.

COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Regional Office No. XII, Cotabato City
Tel. No. (064) 421-1928
Fax No. (064) 421-1973

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Commission on Audit, Region XII, Cotabato City hereby invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility to bid for:

Construction of Two (2) storey Dormitory building with approved budget of P7, 544,000.00

A) Deadline for the submission of Letter of Intent is on September 21, 2004 together with the following eligibility documents duly certified must be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee, as basis for evaluation and assessment of pre-qualified bidders:

DTI/SEC and PCAB license and registrations; 2004 business license permit; income tax return for the last two years with accompanying Audited Financial Statements marked "RECEIVED" by the BIR; statement that the bidder is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by the government; statement of the bidder of all ongoing and completed gov't and private contracts; availability of key personnel and equipment that may be used for the construction; bidder's computation for its Net Financial Contracting Capacity or a commitment from a bank to extend a credit line if awarded a contract to be bidded or a cash deposit certificate, in an amount by at least equal to 10% of the approved budget for the contract; letter authorizing the BAC/TWG to verify any or all documents submitted for the eligibility check and certification under oath that all documents submitted is an authentic and original copy, or faithful reproduction from the original.

NOTE : ONLY ELIGIBLE BIDDERS WILL BE ISSUED THE BID DOCUMENTS AND ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.

B) Bidding documents may be purchased for a nonrefundable fee of One Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (P1,200.00). Issuance of bidding documents is from October 12-22, 2004. Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash or Manager's Check in the amount equivalent to 1% of the approved budget for the contract and shall be deposited at the Cashier's Section , COA XII, Cotabato City before the scheduled opening of bids on November 11, 2004 at 9:30 A.M. Pre-bidding conference is scheduled on October 28, 2004 at 10:00 A.M.

C) All particulars relative to the Qualification/Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations.

D) The Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any defect or formality and to accept bids as may considered most advantageous to the government.

MAG[illegible]
Chair, Bids and [illegible] Committee

(PDI-September 6 &13, 2004)

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel. (63-2) 632-4231; Fax No. (63-2) 636-2567

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY

IN-PLANT TRAVEL SERVICES AT ADB HEADQUARTERS

(Contract ADB/OAS-2004/056)

1. The Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites well-established IATA-accredited travel agencies operating in the Philippines to apply for pre-qualification for the bidding to select a contractor for the provision of In-Plant Travel Services at ADB Headquarters at ADB Building, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines. For more information on ADB, you may access its website, www.adb.org
2. The contractor's services include provision of travel services with qualified and experienced personnel in the ADB premises to meet the business travel requirements of ADB which include documentation services for visas and passports for ADB staff (outbound) and guests (inbound). The scope of work is provided in detail in the Work Performance Statement to be given to interested applicants.
3. Applications for prequalification will only be entertained from travel agencies, with legal authority to operate in the Philippines, including companies and joint venture of local and/or foreign[1] agencies, and meeting the minimum criteria for prequalification by (i) one of the joint venture members; (ii) the lead firm of the joint venture; or (iii) all partners combined, as provided in the notice to be found in the Business Opportunities page of www.adb.org
4. Prequalification documents may be obtained from Contracts Administration, Room 4219, at the above address, from **15-28 September 2004** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Call D. Munoz at (632) 632-4231 or L. Cruz at (632) 632-4452 or fax (632) 636-2567 to receive the documents. Requests for electronic copies can also be made by email: dmunoz@adb.org
5. Applicants will be required to submit two copies (marked "Original" and "Copy") of applications for prequalification each in a sealed envelope, which must be delivered either by hand or by registered mail addressed to the attention of the Head, Contracts Administration at Room 4223, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines. These should be received not later than **5:00 p.m. on 29 September 2004**, and be clearly marked "Application for Pre-qualification to In-Plant Travel Services at ADB Headquarters".
6. The Invitation to Bid will be issued to pre-qualified applicants who pass the minimum prequalification criteria and evaluated as pre-qualified.
7. Only pre-qualified companies will be contacted and issued bidding documents. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any application for prequalification, and to postpone issuance of bidding documents, without providing reasons therefor.
8. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of the application for prequalification shall be borne solely by the applicant.

Chairperson
Institutional Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

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[1] From ADB member countries.

(PDI-Sept. 14 & 15, 2004)

DBP

Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION FOR NEGOTIATED OFFER

The Development Bank of the Philippines will entertain offers on a First-Come, First-Served basis at the Asset Management Department, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City for the following properties:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM SELLING PRICE
REAL ESTATE			
MANILA			
MALO-02	3838 Mascardo St., Tejeros, Makati City	355 m² residential lot (TCT No. 219849) w/ bldg.	P 8,129,500.00
AM-ED-217	2072 Anonas St., Sta. Mesa	300.2 m² residential lot (TCT No. 245737) w/ bldg.	P 3,363,000.00
AM-PY-218	INA Exec. Homes I, Levitown Estate Subd., La Huerta, Parañaque City	190 m² residential lot (TCT No. 144520) w/ bldg.	P 864,075.00
AM-CP-219	Andora vs. Jackson Sts., Vista Verde Subdivision, Bo. Llano, Caloocan City	Res. lots: TCT No. C-348039, 276 m² C-348031, 190 m² C-349032, 190 m²	P 683,100.00 P 441,750.00 P 441,750.00
AM-PY-220	Congressional Model Subd., Camarin, Caloocan City	228 m² residential lot (TCT No. 334416)	P 383,040.00
BATANGAS			
AM-MC-221	Bgy. Alangilan, Batangas City	18,139 m² industrial lot (TCT No. 53085) w/ bldgs. & impvts./Granty crane foundation and various machinery & eqpt. for marble-making	P70,022,100.00
AM-JA-222	Along National Road, San Rafael, Sto. Tomas	1,185 m² residential-commercial lot (TCT No. T-86841) w/ bldgs. & freezing eqpt.	P 5,070,000.00
AM-PY-223	Brgy. Sta. Rita, Batangas City	2 adjoining semi-commercial lots (TCT Nos. T-43159 & 43160), total area of 590 m², w/ bldg.	P 1,911,000.00
BULACAN			
MALO-01	Bo. Catmon, Malolos City	4 adjoining commercial lots TCT Nos. T-91884 & 91885) total area of 866 m²	P19,052,000.00
CAVITE			
AM-ML-224	Bo. Iruhin, Tagaytay	1,500 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-36905)	P 3,701,810.00
AM-ML-225	Greenbreze Subd., Lancaan Dasmariñas	200 m² residential lot (T-979115)	P 195,000.00
LAGUNA			
STR-02	Lot 1 Pcs-31598, unnamed road, Mercado Village, Pulong Sta. Cruz, Sta. Rosa	2,150 m² vacant commercial-residential lot (TCT No. T-385520)	P32,250,000.00
AM-ML-226	Along Bonifacio St., Bgy. Sto. Niño Poblacion, Lumban	97 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-200189) w/ 4-storey factory bldg.	P 1,733,000.00
AM-ML-227	L-23 B-2, San Pablo St., San Carlos Bgy. Village, Banay-banay, Cabuyao	66 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-536564) w/ bldg.	P 267,300.00
MISAMIS ORIENTAL			
CWB-035	Bo. Barra, Opol	35,046 m² institutional lot (TCT No. T-37481) w/ school bldgs. & imprvts., office eqpt. & furnitures	P44,772,200.00
QUEZON			
AM-CP-228	Brgy. Cabuguang, Tagkawayan	2 adjoining lots (TCT Nos. T-367909 & 367910) total area of 408,846 m²	P 6,513,525.00
RIZAL			
AM-PY-229	Lincoln Drive, Mayamot, Antipolo City	8 industrial lots (TCT Nos. 317013 to 317020) total area of 5,029 m² w/ bldg.	P 5,557,090.00
AM-PY-230	Bo. San Isidro, Antipolo City	2 adjoining lots (TCT Nos. 373101 & 373102), total area of 2,537 m²	P 887,460.00
AM-PY-231	Bermudez Heights Subd., Bgy. San Isidro & Ibayo, Antipolo City	Subdivision lots: TCT No. 403152 336 m² TCT No. 403153 337 m² 403154 300 m² 403155 227 m² 403156 322 m² 403157 287 m²	 P 403,200.00 P 404,400.00 P 360,000.00 P 332,400.00 P 386,400.00 P 344,400.00
ZAMBALES			
AM-ED-232	Bo. Lucapon, Sta. Cruz	6,639 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. 48082)	P 1,619,775.00
CHATTELS (sale on "as-is, where-is & per item" basis)			
AM-MC-233	No. 2337 Dalaga St., Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila	Punch press, 7-mixers & material handling eqpt.	P 40,000.00 to 8,000,000.00
CWB-029	Bldg. 693 Gridley St., SRF Compound, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Olongapo City	Various machinery and equipment for food processing: (1-Fully Automatic Convection Conveyor Oven, 1-Automatic Turbo Dryer Convection Blower, 4-Universal Food Cooker, 2-Universal Mixing/ Seasoning Machines, 2-High Pressure Boilers, 1-Vacuum Sealing/Packaging Machine, 1-Meat Rolling Machine, 1-Walk-in Freezer, 1-Canning Seaming Machine, 1-Meat Slicer Machine, 4-Automatic Sealing Machines, 10-Basins Fabricated, 4-Active Stacking Tripods-High Grade, 6-Active Stacking Tripods, 10-Manual Sealing Machines).	P 11,000.00 to 6,675,000.00
AM-ML-234a	Serg's Compound, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City	1-unit Hydrostatic Five-Roll Refiner, for chocolate masses, cream cmpds.	P 5,146,900.00
AM-ML-234b		1-lot Baker Perkins Chocolate Machine	P 913,100.00
AM-JA-235	No. 6 Banner St., Bagong Ilog, Pasig City	2-units hydraulic press	P 100,000.00
AM-ED-236	No. 617 Bagumbayan St., Bacood, Sta. Mesa, Manila	Offset, press/setting/letter press machines	P 12,500.00 to 375,000.00
AM-ML-237	DBP Depot, Dona Severina Parañaque City	Electric heating upsetter, welding machine, 2-nut tapping machine	P 8,400.00 to 249,440.00
AM-MC-238	L-3 B-5, Purok 4, Magsaysay, San Pedro, Laguna	Various chattels for molds and dies fabrication	P 60,000.00 to 236,200.00
AM-JA-239	Bgy. San Isidro, Minalin, Pampanga	Generating set, powder coating oven, shearing machine, hydraulic/power press	P 16,900.00 to 200,000.00
AM-JA-241	Along National Road, San Rafael, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	1-lot scrap materials	P 16,000.00

Forms for negotiated offers may be obtained from AMD-Acquired Assets.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2218/2252 for Code starting with AM;
926-1686 for CWB; 818-9511 local 1409 for MALO and 1428 for STR.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI - Sept. 14, 2004)

UNDP

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

SERVICES OF A COMMON TRAVEL AGENT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), for and in behalf of the other UN Agencies in the Philippines, would like to invite travel agencies to apply for eligibility and to submit proposals to be the exclusive Travel Agent for the International and domestic travel services needs/requirements of the officers, staff, dependents, consultants and partners of the UN Agencies in the Philippines.

For purposes of accessibility, ease of coordination, and efficiency of delivery of services, the UN System hereby encourages the participation of travel agencies whose offices or branches are currently located within, or within ten (10) minutes walking distance, or anywhere near, the vicinity of the new premises of the UN Agencies of the Philippines by November 2004, which is the 29th, 30th and 31st floors of the Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

For interested parties, Bidding Documents (Eligibility Requirements, Instructions to Bidders and Terms of Reference) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Philippine Pesos One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) from the following address :

Development Support Services Center
United Nations Development Programme
7th Floor NEDA sa Makati Building
106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier)
Tel. No. (632) 892 06 11 loc. 275
Fax No. (632) 816 40 61 / 893 2610
E-mail address : bc_admin.ph@undp.org

The abovementioned Bidding Documents will be released to all interested parties strictly from 16 – 22 **September 2004.** The Bidding Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, bid opening dates, other schedules and requirements.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP based on UNDP criteria. UNDP assumes no obligation or responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made for this Contract.

(Sgd) **ETHELIND B. CAPUNO**
Manager, DSSC

(PDI - Sept. 12 & 14, 2004)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 • 722-1155

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Committee on Disposal of Real Properties

INVITATION TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas invites all interested parties to bid for the following real estate properties:

	Location	TCT No. New	Area	Description	Selling Price
	BUTUAN				
1	Lot 21, Ong Yiu St., Brgy. Bading	19873	615	Residential lot	369,000
	CAGAYAN DE ORO				
2	Lot 3794-C V. Castro Ext., Carmen	T-80429	1000	Residential lot	850,000
3	Lot 3794-D V. Castro Ext., Carmen	T-80430	1000	Residential lot	850,000
4	Lot 3794-E V. Castro Ext., Carmen	T-80431	1000	Residential lot	850,000
5	Lot 3794-F-1, V. Castro Ext. Carmen	T-80432	1354	Residential lot	1,150,900
6	Pres. Garcia St., Dist. of Lapasan	T-80433	1560	Residential lot	6,006,000
7	Osmeña St., Ext. Lapasan	T-156181 to 82	2000	Comm'l lot w/ various imp.	23,299,000
8	Rd Lot 7, PN Roa Subd., Canito-an	T-156183	377	Res'l lot w/ 181 sq.m. imp.	1,919,400
9	Gemini St., Villa Ernesto Subd., Gusa	T-156184	240	Residential lot (vacant)	480,000
10	3rd St., San Isidro Vill. Gusa	T-156180	520	Res'l lot w/ 108 sq.m. imp.	1,312,000
11	Madrid St., Puerto Heights Vill., Puerto	T-156186	764	Residential lot (vacant)	2,445,000
12	Sitio Tambo, Macasandig	T-156187	238	Residential lot – vacant	238,000
13	Agbalog Comp. Bo. Macasandig	T-156188	662	Res'l lot w/ 137 sq.m. imp.	2,308,400
14	C.M. Recto Ave. cor. Camp Alagar, Lapasan	T-158726	322	Com'l w/ 343 sqm bank bldg	8,598,000
15	No. 134 Hayes Street, Poblacion	T-159417	81	Com'l w/ 223 sqm bldg.	2,912,000
16	Barangay Cugman* *net usable area is 1,957 sqm	T-159418-22	2,243	Res'l Lot for Beach Resort dev.	6,850,000
	COTABATO CITY				
17	Lot 2521, Sultan Makakua St., Poblacion	T-42799	608	Commercial lot	9,728,000
	KORONADAL, SOUTH COTABATO				
18	Lot 2032-B, Osmeña St., Brgy. Zone 2, Pob.	103998	1131	Com'l with temp structure	11,310,000
	DAVAO CITY				
19	Magsaysay Ave., Bgy. Poblacion	T-202752	342	Com'l with 392 sqm 2-storey bldg.	11,602,000
20	Lot 8 Block 4 Gardenia Street San Pedro Vill	T-354603	800	Residential lot	2,000,000
21	Lot 29 and 31, Block 8, Skyline Subd.	T-354604 to 05	679	Res'l w/ 261 sq.m. imp.	1,640,200
22	Nat'l Hiway, Brgy. Panacan, Bunawan	T-354606	8971	Industrial w/ 1,385 sq.m. bldg.	18,555,000
23	C.M. Recto Ave., Brgy. 35, Poblacion	T-354616	447	Resl lot w/ 2 com'l bldgs.	23,164,000
24	Pag-Ibig Homes, Catalunan, Talomo	T-354613	174	Res'l lot w/ 117 sq.m. imp.	591,000
25	Brgy. 19, Poblacion	T-354614	638	Residential lot	255,000
26	Sasa, Buhangin	T-354615	2967	Residential lot	2,967,000
27	Lot 17 Blk 9, Tradeschool Drive, Brgy. Obrero	354612	320	Res'l w/ 3 imps.	2,664,000
	GENERAL SANTOS CITY				
	Brgy. Lagao				
28	Lot 1347-A-2, Mateo Rd., Mateo Village	98646	2500	Residential lot	2,250,000
29	Lot 127, San Pedro St.	98643	1001	Residential lot	801,000
30	Lot 5 Blk 2, 1st Ave., Guinoo Subd.	98640	400	Residential lot	680,000
	Brgy. Dadiangas, North				
31	Lot 2 Blk 11, Road Lot 11, Bulaong Subd.	98629	450	Residential lot	900,000
32	Pioneer St.	T-55456	464	Com'l w/ 197 sqm. bldg.	12,249,000
	Brgy. Dadiangas, South				
33	Lot 4405, Salazar St.	98647	456	Res'l with 262 sqm 2-storey imp	2,330,000
	Brgy. Dadiangas, East				
34	Lot 4993, cor. J.P. Laurel St. and Casquejo St.	98618	443	Com'l with 412 sqm bank branch	10,847,000
	Brgy. Dadiangas, West				
35	Lot 1, Camp Lina Road	98636	341	Res'l with 274 sqm impr	1,438,000
	Brgy. Tambler				
36	Lot F-5, S. Banisil Subd.	98641	300	Residential lot	72,000
37	Lot 25-C, Rupia Ave.	98631	8210	Industrial/Residential Lot	3,284,000
	Brgy. Calumpang				
38	Lot 15-B, Asfin Village Road Purok New Bohol	98639	9000	Residential/Industrial lot	4,500,000
39	Lot 15-C, Asfin Village Road Purok New Bohol	98638	600	Residential/Industrial lot	300,000
	Villa Consuelo Subd., Brgy. Heights				
40	Lot 4-I, cor. Neptune St. and Road Lot 4-J	98634	2031	Residential lot	3,046,500
41	Lot 17 Blk 10, Jupiter St.	98633	360	Residential lot	612,000
42	Lot 5-B, Neptune St.	98632	2875	Res'l w/ perimeter fence	3,907,500
43	Lot 15 Blk 4, Venus St.	98628	441	Residential lot	661,500
44	Lot 12 Blk 4, Venus St.	98627	385	Residential lot	577,500
45	Lot 14 Blk 4, Venus St.	98626	383	Residential lot	574,500
46	Lot 13 Blk 4, Venus St.	98625	372	Residential lot	558,000
	MISAMIS ORIENTAL				
47	Brgy. Natumulan, Tagoloan	T-36993	19955	Industrial lot w/ various imp.	17,128,000
48	Lot 1345 Poblacion Villanueva	T-37643	538	Res'l w/ 133 sqm imp	965,000
	ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR				
49	Diversion Road, Brgy. Dao, Pagadian City	T-25132-33	1,576	Residential lot	748,600

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished bid forms enclosed in sealed envelopes shall be on **29 September 2004, 10:00 A.M.** at the BSP Branch General Santos City, Pendatun Ave. cor. Pres. Sergio Osmeña St., General Santos City. All bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for submission of bids.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The Buyer is deemed to have inspected the property.
2. The sale of the properties shall be "As is, Where is" and the winning bidder shall undertake the responsibility to acquire and maintain peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property without seeking the assistance of the BSP.
3. The BSP reserves the right to withdraw any or all of the properties offered for sale at any time before the deadline for submission of offers, and to reject any or all bids or to waive any infirmity found therein, or to accept such offers as will be considered advantageous to the BSP.
4. The Committee will immediately start accepting offers for negotiation, in the event of a failed bidding, and will continue to accept offers through the Asset Management Department. However, the Committee may at its discretion, elect to conclude the negotiation immediately after failure of bidding whenever there is a highest complying offeror ascertained.
5. Offerors at the Public Bidding must tender a BID BOND equivalent to 10% of the minimum bid price and offerors under the negotiated sale basis must submit an EARNEST MONEY equivalent to 10% of the asking price either in CASH or CASHIER's/MANAGER's CHECK payable to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas which shall form part of the consideration once the offer is approved by the Monetary Board.
6. ALL OFFERS ARE SUBJECT TO FINAL APPROVAL OF THE MONETARY BOARD.

Complete description of the properties, rules and regulations on the bidding procedures and the prescribed bid forms are available for a minimal fee of P50.00 at the BSP Branch General Santos City or at the Asset Management Department, Rm. 313, Five-Storey Bldg. through the following:

Ms. Juliet S. Villanueva	523-34-86	Trunk Line: 524-70-11	loc. 2857
Ms. Geraldine K. Tarlengco	404-21-14		loc. 2857

(Sgd.) **MELPIN A. GONZAGA**
Committee Chairman

(PDI–Sept. 14, 2004)

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OBITUARIES

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FORT BONIFACIO
Memorial Park
Mortuary
Viewing Chapels
Crematory
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio
Taguig, Metro Manila
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38

JUANITO MENDOZA-PAGTALUNAN

Of Mallorca, San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija

August 21, 1934 – September 12, 2004

His bereaved wife **Ignacia**; children **Helen** and **Cesar**, **Margie** and **Chito**, **Efren** and **Edna**, **Nene** and **Romeo**, **Anastacio** and **Diana**, **Julieta**, **Isaac** and **Sally**, **Piring**, **Marina**, **Yolly** and **Arnel**; brothers and sisters, grandchildren and relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence at Tumana St., Mallorca, San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will take place on Thursday, September 16, 2004 after the 9 a.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

DEATH NOTICES

ALBERTO K. CORVERA

Peacefully died in the Grace of our Lord on September 13, 2004 at the age of 67.
His body lies in state at the Mount Carmel Parish Church, Visayas Avenue, Project 6, Quezon City.
Interment will be announced later

JUANITA C. YASAY

Passed away on September 9, 2004
Her remains lie in state at Agoncillo Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Parañaque City.
Interment will be on September 15, 2004 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 10:00 a.m. Mass and last rites.

ANITA PABLO MONTERMOSO

Passed away at the age of 85.
Her remains lie in state at the Capilla dela Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati.
Interment will be on September 15, 2004.

> "...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
> — 2 Corinthians 5:8

"Come follow me and I shall give you rest."

ALFONSO MUTUC BUSTOS

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 9, 2004 at the age of 78.

His devoted wife, **Nenette**; and loving children: **Fatima** and **Reece**, **Cynthia**, **Freddie** and **Rosalinda**, **Diosdado** and **Masoy**, **Teng** and **Rolly**; and grandchildren: **Joseph**, **Monica**, **Gel**, **Jackie**, **Cholo**, **Marc**, **Migs**, **Ga** and **Luigi**; other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Saint Jerome Chapel, Commerce Avenue, Ayala Alabang.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Saint Jerome Parish Church, 9:00 a.m. on September 15, 2004. Interment services will follow at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Lovingly Remembered
on her 1st Death Anniversary

INOCENCIA LOZADA CASTILLO

July 28, 1911 – September 14, 2003

Her loving children, grandchildren and great grandchild request relatives, friends and readers to remember her in their prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Holy masses will be offered today, September 14, 2004 at the following:

FAMILY MAUSOLEUM, MANILA MEMORIAL PARK Sucat, Parañaque City	9:30 AM
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO Forbes Park, Makati City	6:30 AM, 7:30 AM & 12:15 PM
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGUORI PARISH Magallanes Village, Makati City	7:00 AM
ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH Arnaiz St., Makati City	7:30 AM
ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH N. Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City	6:30 AM

"To do your will is my delight; my God, your law is in my heart."
Psalm 40:9

The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
Philippine Province
and
The Reyes Family
announce with great Christian joy and human sorrow
the passage to Eternal Life of

SISTER LETICIA VALERO REYES, FMM

On September 12, 2004 on her 80th year and 53rd year in religious life.

The wake is at the Chapel of Stella Maris College, Cubao, Quezon City.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be offered on the Feast of our Lady of Sorrows, 15 September 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

Interment at the FMM Cemetery in Tagaytay City follows.
The FMMs and The Reyes family request your prayerful remembrance.

Bayani M. Velasquez

of Caingin, San Rafael, Bulacan
and Unisite Subd., San Fernando, Pampanga

Peacefully joined our Creator on September 13, 2004, at the age of 76.

She is survived by his wife **Felicisima**; children
Nelly & Rose
Jessica, Jette, Jimmy, Jerry, Jonathan & Joey
Edwin

We request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 438 Caingin, San Rafael, Bulacan.

Interment will be on September 18, 2004, 2:00 p.m. at San Rafael Cemetery.

For inquiries contact: (044) 660-0597 •
Jette - 0918-9022774 • Jonathan - 0921-3196060

> **"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."**
> — John 3:16

BUSINESS

Gov't seeks ₱2B to develop Clark airport

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE ARROYO administration yesterday said it would spend about P2 billion in government funds to complete the first phase of the expansion of the Clark International Airport.

The Manila International Airport Authority or MIAA, according to its general manager Alfonso Cusi, would provide half of the fund required to expand the passenger terminal at Clark.

"The project includes the improvement and upgrade of the passenger tubes, air bridges, ramps, cargo conveyors, among others, so it could handle a bigger capacity," said Cusi in an interview.

"The order of the president was to develop Clark without borrowing. So we are getting the money from internally-generated funds. Half would come from MIAA collections and the rest we would try to get from government agencies that are willing to help," he added.

He also said MIAA was exploring the possibility of issuing bonds to government-owned and -controlled corporations to raise the funds.

The former US military air base sits on a 2,750-hectare complex with a 3.2-kilometer runway that can accommodate large aircraft.

It also has an existing passenger terminal building that can serve 500 passengers per hour, or 1.5 million passengers yearly.

The expansion of the Clark airport would enable the MIAA to develop the former American airbase into a major gateway.

Executive Order No. 341 had given the MIAA full authority to supervise all international airports in the country.

The EO expanded the powers of MIAA from just taking charge of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport into the overseer of all the other international airports.

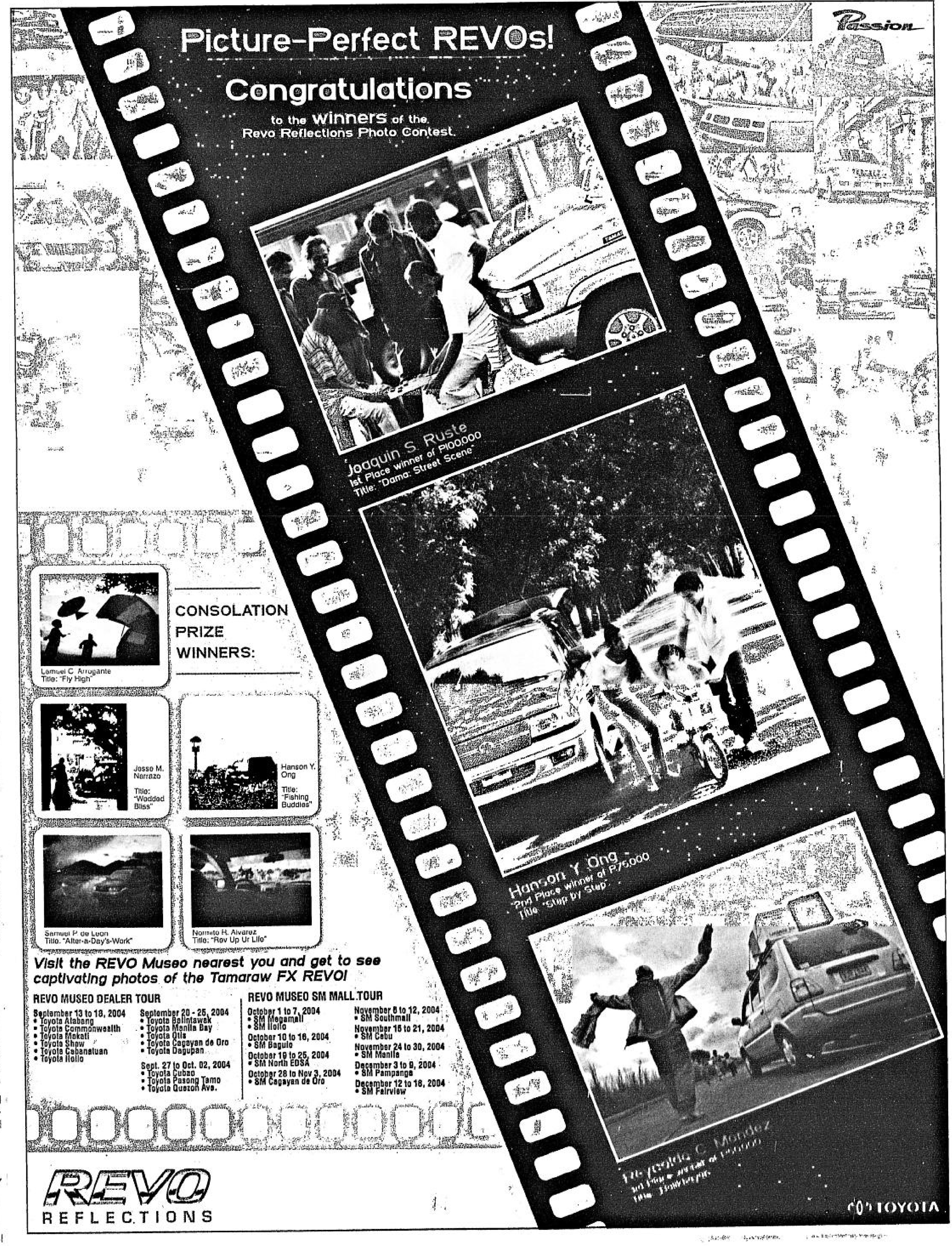
Aside from NAIA and Clark, there are international airports at Laoag, Subic Bay, Mactan-Cebu, Davao, General Santos and Zamboanga.

Cusi said he had met with Clark Airport president Adelberto Yap, and they came up with a game plan to transform the former American military air base into a world-class international airport.

"Once fully operational, Clark International Airport aims to attract low-cost airlines carrying tourists and businessmen to the area. It will also open the airport to and from the Middle East, carrying Overseas Filipino Workers from Central and Northern Luzon and the Cordillera Autonomous Region," added Cusi.

He said the development of Clark airport was in line with the Arroyo administration's plan to decongest Metro Manila and spur economic activity in the countryside.

Clark airport had been wooing investors like Boeing and Airbus to put up regional hubs in the facility.



Picture-Perfect REVOs!

Congratulations to the winners of the Revo Reflections Photo Contest.

Joaquin S. Ruste
1st Place winner of P100,000
Title: "Dama: Street Scene"

Hanson Y. Ong
2nd Place winner of P75,000
Title: "Step by Step"

[illegible] C. Mendez
[illegible]

CONSOLATION PRIZE WINNERS:

Lemuel C. Arrogante
Title: "Fly High"

Josse M. Narrazo
Title: "Wedded Bliss"

Hanson Y. Ong
Title: "Fishing Buddies"

Samuel P. de Leon
Title: "After-a-Day's-Work"

Normito R. Alvarez
Title: "Rev Up Ur Life"

Visit the REVO Museo nearest you and get to see captivating photos of the Tamaraw FX REVO!

REVO MUSEO DEALER TOUR

September 13 to 18, 2004
- Toyota Alabang
- Toyota Commonwealth
- Toyota Makati
- Toyota Show
- Toyota Cabanatuan
- Toyota Iloilo

September 20 - 25, 2004
- Toyota Balintawak
- Toyota Manila Bay
- Toyota Otis
- Toyota Cagayan de Oro
- Toyota Dagupan

Sept. 27 to Oct. 02, 2004
- Toyota Cubao
- Toyota Pasong Tamo
- Toyota Quezon Ave.

REVO MUSEO SM MALL TOUR

October 1 to 7, 2004
- SM Megamall
- SM Iloilo

October 10 to 16, 2004
- SM Baguio

October 19 to 25, 2004
- SM North EDSA

October 28 to Nov 3, 2004
- SM Cagayan de Oro

November 6 to 12, 2004
- SM Southmall

November 15 to 21, 2004
- SM Cebu

November 24 to 30, 2004
- SM Manila

December 3 to 9, 2004
- SM Pampanga

December 12 to 18, 2004
- SM Fairview

REVO REFLECTIONS

Passion

TOYOTA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2004

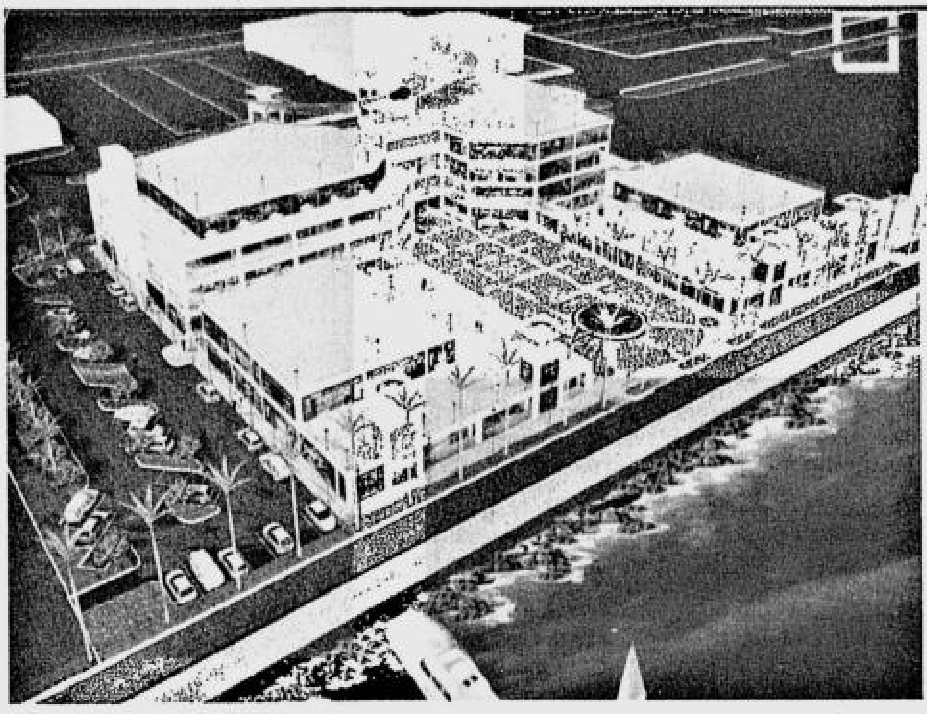
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

REAL ESTATE

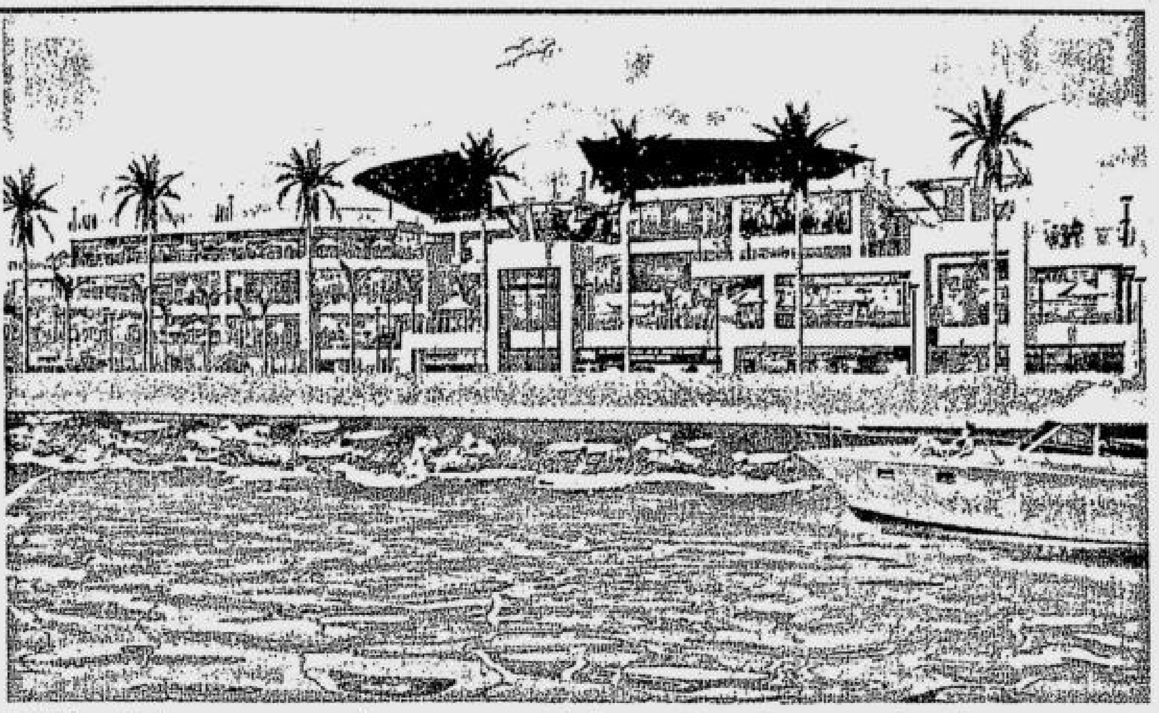
Text us your feedback: inquirer re name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: pr_real_estate@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang



BIRDS-EYE view of Harborview Square



VIEW from the bay

Bay area where commerce, arts converge

By Tessa R. Salazar

DON'T accuse developer Meedson Properties Corp. of being extremely idealist, for it knows all too well that artists sometimes turn up their noses on the idea of commercialization. But who can resist food and entertainment, and possibly the art and convenient proximity that go along with these?

Meedson Properties hopes Manila's artists who have made the CCP bay area their professional home would see the wisdom in developing a food and entertainment establishment between the art center and the bay area. At the very least, it says, the development would bring international cuisine choices closer to art patrons and tourists frequenting the area. And on the other hand, food and entertainment establishments could be vehicles for the artists to bring their rich cultural heritage to the masses.

Commercial area

That hope is slowly turning into a realization, as a crucial step has been made. Meedson Properties says it finally "earned" CCP management's nod in developing 1.5 hectares of the Liwasang Agyu into a commercial area, which will be called Harborview Square.

How did Meedson convince CCP? By assuring CCP's basic condition that the arts and culture cannot be erased within the commercial complex. This meant that a chunk of the development at the ground level, near the main entrance, would be dedicated as a venue for performing artists. It would be called the performance plaza and would face the promenade and seawall area. This plaza would then be surrounded by restaurants, artist and souvenir shops and retail tourist booths.

Thus, in a nutshell, Harborview Square will be designed with the mix of food and entertainment establishments, arts and culture in mind.

Preview shows

Says Meedson Properties corporate communications head Roger Garcia: "There will be preview shows. The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra or featured artists will come down and play five to six songs for Harborview visitors. If you go there, you wouldn't just drink or eat. You'll have 'food for the arts' too. Artists will meet the *masa* (masses)."

The architect for this delicate balancing act between art and commerce will be RMJM Philippines, the general contractor Asiakonstrukt, while environmental graphics and signage will be executed by DQA Industrial Design.

Seventy percent of Harborview will be allotted for restaurants (a mix of fast food and fine dining), 20 percent for retail shopping (artist shops, retail tourist booth, souvenir art stores) and 10 percent for service-oriented stores (beauty salon and spa).

Destination bay

Designed to be a destination bay, the second floor will feature a viewing deck to enhance the wining and dining experience in the area.

"It's like transporting Greenbelt or Eastwood to the bay area. This is an effort to draw the crowds of Manila and Makati to the bay area," says Garcia.

In this age of the "bar" culture, he explains that it is necessary for cultural centers to also offer places that also offer literal servings of nourishment. "In this case, you're on your 'gimmick night' and you're learning at the same time. It's like people will now say 'let's watch ballet or a play, then we go to a bar just beside it,'" he adds.

Addressing environmental concerns, Garcia says that even prior to Meedson's proposal to the CCP management, it already had a systematic waste management disposal system planned for Harborview. "The locators, particularly restaurant owners, based their decisions on how organized the building management's waste disposal was. They didn't want to be penalized for that."

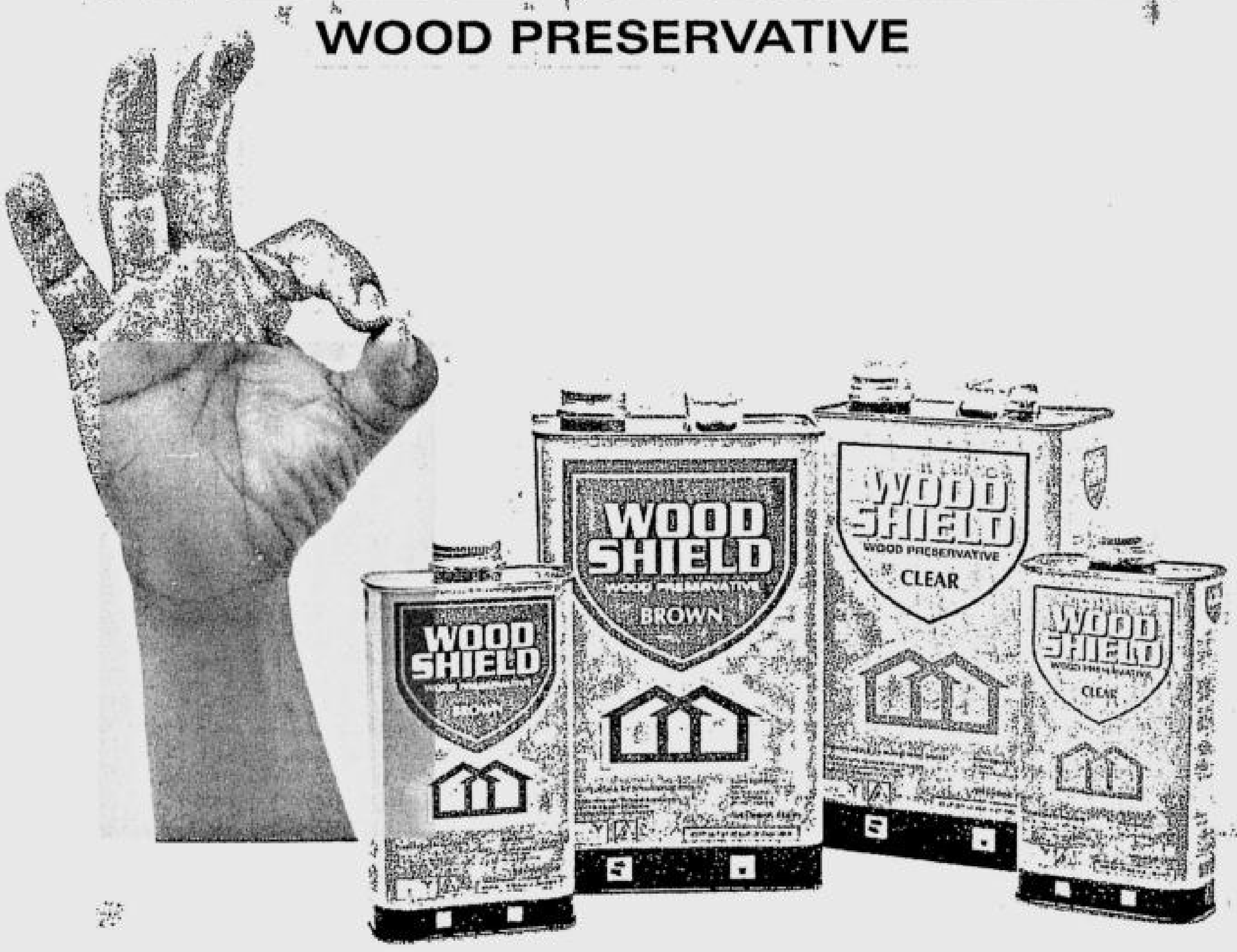
Initial locators that have signed in are Golden Bay Grillers (Dencio's) and Grappas, and the signed lease offers now involve Pancake House, Mocha Blend, Starbucks, Country Waffles, Rai Rai Ken and Hue/Boca-Boca. The construction status is 25 to 50 percent complete for blocks 1 and 2 and open area and utilities, while construction of blocks 3 and 4 are targeted to start in January 2005. Target opening for blocks 1 and 2 will be in December 2004, while blocks 3 and 4 are expected to be opened in July 2005.

Flock to shore

Taking advantage of the added ambience and romance wherever land meets the sea, the project aims to win Manila, Makati and Ortigas crowds over to the bay area. An encouraging sign is Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's baywalk project that has become popular among Manila's night crowds.

As land and sea merge, expect the arts, culture and entertainment to do the same for a tried and tested formula for good business. "We go by the trend where anywhere all over the world, those that clicked were those that have merged arts, culture, food and entertainment," Garcia says.

> Can these two disciplines finally mix and match? Maybe a heartwarming Manila Bay sunset can help



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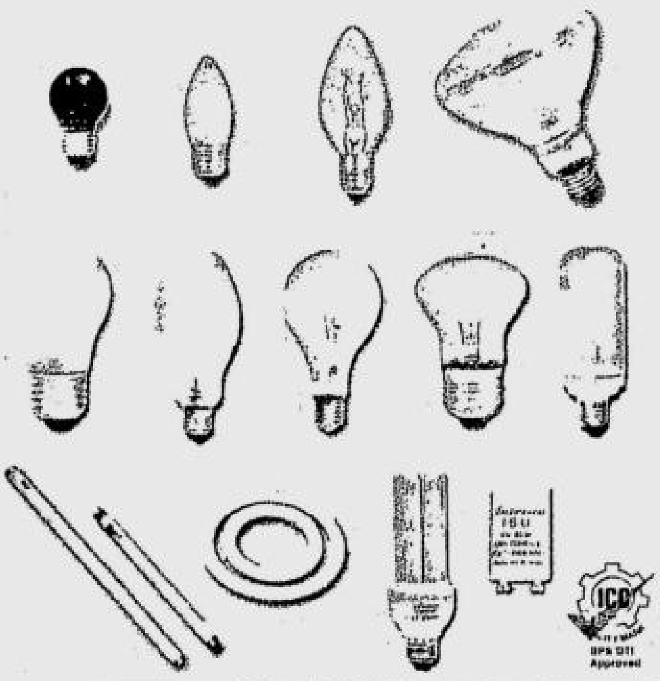

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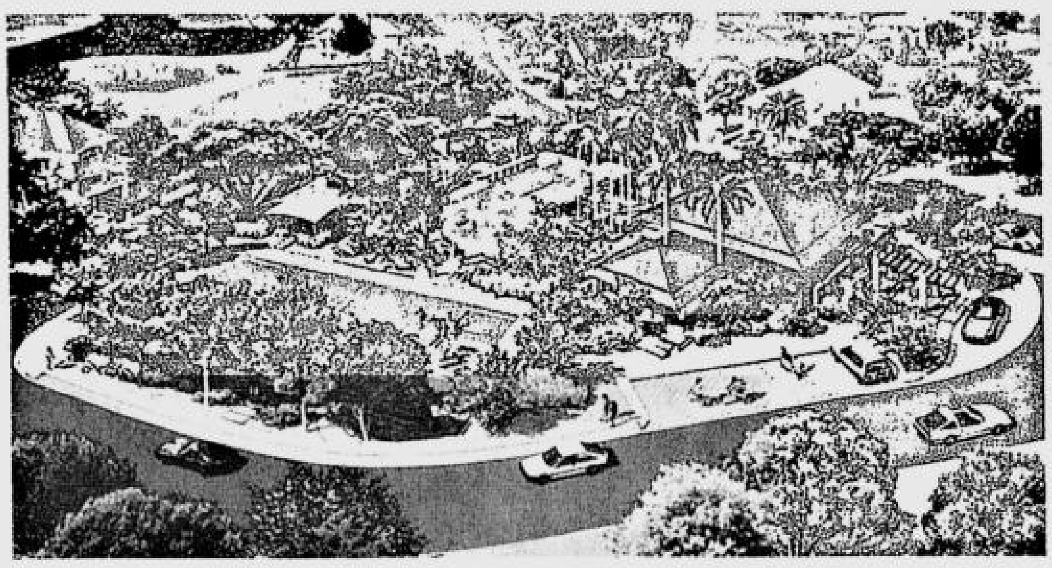
Ayala Hillside has unique village parks



AYALA Hillside Estates' common areas will cater to different uses. One park is designed for active daytime use (above) while another will cater to evening functions. The latter will make full use of dramatic lighting and even plants that bloom and look good in the evening.

DISTINCT innovations in the design of community amenities will be introduced by Ayala Land Inc. at its latest residential subdivision in Quezon City.

At Ayala Hillside Estates in Diliman, the plans for the clubhouses and parks have veered from big and impressive to compact and oriented toward the outdoors, according to architect Joel Luna, Ayala Land assistant vice president.

The 22-hectare subdivision near top universities and government institutions will have two parks: one will be oriented toward active daytime activities; and the other, designed for more quiet evening activities such as socials and other gatherings.

"The concept is uncommon but responds to the needs of the community," explains Luna.

2 parks

The 3,000 square-meter Day Garden located in the first phase of the subdivision will have a swimming pool, basketball court, children's playground, palm court and pavilion. During the day, Ayala Land expects the park to be a venue for swimming lessons, taebo and taichi sessions, and basketball games and other more active recreational pursuits.

As its name implies, the 5,000 sqm Evening Garden in the subdivision's third phase will be the community's focal point after dark. It was conceived as a venue for social gatherings such as weddings, birthday parties, family reunions and the like—with the facilities designed to maximize the drama of lighting.

The ornamental pool will be illuminated; the multipurpose hall with its outdoor gathering spaces will use lights to emphasize focal points and even the landscaping with its quiet clustered gardens will focus on nocturnal plants that look best at night or bloom after dark. While evening theme does not preclude the use of facility during the day, it allows for a unique and inviting community gathering venue after hours.

Unique environment

Carved out from a portion of the original Capitol Hills Golf Club, the subdivision has a unique environment. The area has been laid out as a series of pocket neighborhoods connected by a main road with each neighborhood surrounded by the golf course. Thus, many of the lots have generous views of the fairways and the whole community benefits from the wide, open spaces around it.

"The unique feel and atmosphere of Ayala Hillside prompted us to design facilities that match the compact nature of the village," says Luna. Rather than construct massive buildings, Ayala Land opted for a series of small structures connected by walkways. This reinforces the character of Ayala Hillside as an intimate and one-of-a-kind community.

Interior designers depict living in style at Fifth Avenue Place

THE DESIGN of Marion Coscolluela and Mara Coscolluela-Quintal reflects the preferences of many dynamic young couples and single professionals.

THE DARING design of Chat Fores has a uniquely eclectic character that is sure to please the more adventurous urban dwellers.

STYLISH home interiors do not come in neatly prepackaged conditions. Neither are they a study in design generalities that do not address the real needs of day-to-day living. They are, at best, personal statements of their owners, and as such, are as real and as livable as the ideal home environment we all desire.

This is the idea behind the two model units of Fifth Avenue Place now on display at its site: 5th Avenue, Corner 21st Drive inside the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

How would top-rated interior designers set up their interiors in a one-bedroom condo unit with a view to satisfy the various needs of the target market?

Marion Coscolluela, in collaboration with her daughter Mara Coscolluela-Quintal, of the W.V. Coscolluela Interior Design Group and Chat Fores of the Chat Fores Design Studio were up to the mission and came up with engaging answers of their own, each as unique and inspiring as the other.

Uncluttered home setup

Marion favors the simple, uncluttered home setup with a modern minimalist twist. She felt her preference reflects the moods and inclinations of several young dynamic individuals and couples who are most at home with just the basics but have a lot of need for room to grow. "I made it a point to incorporate features that take full advantage of available space and make it more useful and interesting," said Marion.

Calmness, comfort and elegance, these words come to mind as you enter the living area. The sofa and lounge chair looks very inviting in its simplicity. Visitors are also immediately drawn to the walls, which were clad with a "pearl shine" finish that gives an affluent feel to it. Marion said she wanted to make the partition walls into more than just panels of separation but elements of interest in themselves and she was decidedly successful in doing so. The Roman shades used in the windows nicely complement the walls and allow for flexible levels of privacy for the unit-owners. A sense of openness is also achieved in the setup of the dining area, which features tables with stilted supports and glass tops.

Creating fun interiors

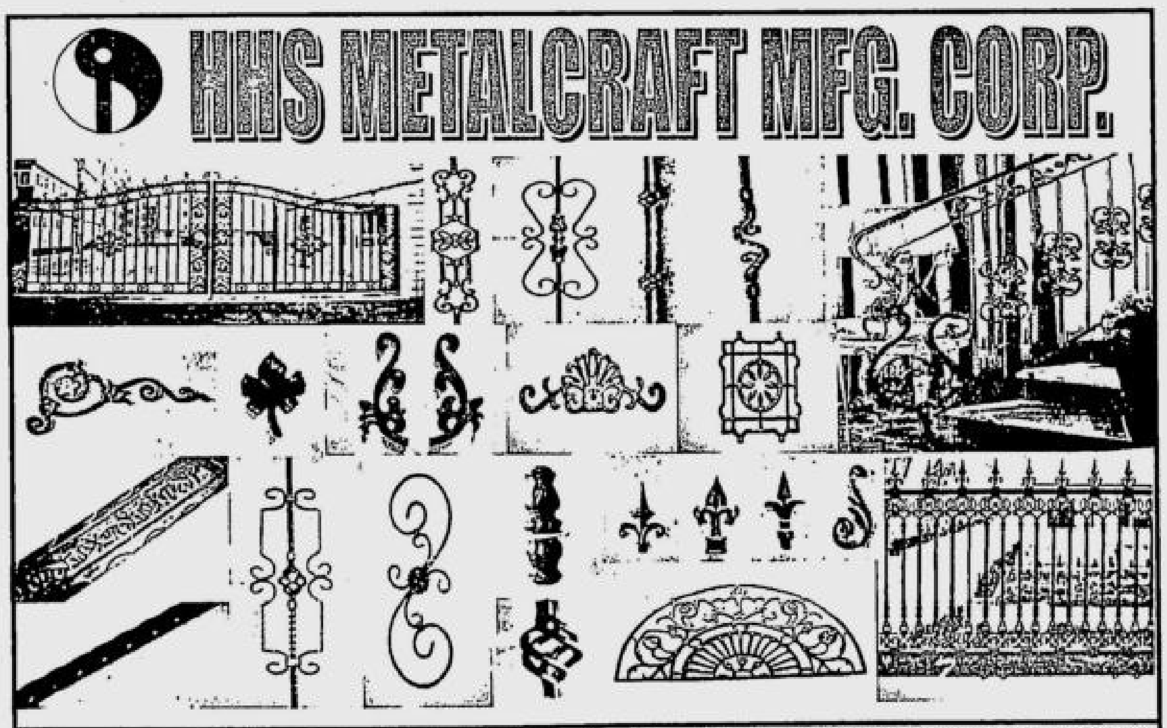
Moving on next door, is Chat Fores' take on Fifth Avenue Place. She is known for creating fun interiors and this one is no exception.

"My intention was to do something different, I want to go bolder in my design this time," said Chat. Chat's design for Fifth Avenue Place is a combination of old and new ideas. She calls it a happy coexistence of oriental and minimal concepts in interior design. The overall effect is nothing short of eclectic and, in a sense, really bold if not defiant.

Upon entering, you are immediately drawn to the huge mirror by the dining table leaning toward the wall. It has two light sconces punctured through the mirror giving the dining area a uniquely luminous impression denoting an immediate sense of excitement, which extends through the kitchen area. "In the kitchen I decided to use an island counter where I placed different European-style vases," noted Chat.

In the living area, what immediately impress you are the huge lamp hanging by the ceiling as well as the transparent acrylic chair by Philippe Starck called "Ghost Chair" and the Lucite tables. "I chose cobalt blue as an accent color to highlight my old blue and white Chinese jars," Chat went on to explain. "I put the jars on all-mirror pedestals and combined them with Lucite tables, French chairs and Chinese furniture to make the space seem bigger. I also used lights strategically to contribute to the 'transparent' look and floating ambiance that I want to project." It is certainly a fun and stimulating spot to entertain guests.

The frosted glass partition by the living area opens to a pristine crisp and white bedroom marked by a large mirror by the headboard. Chat designed a space saving movable trolley over the bed to address the need of those who love to read, work or eat before sleeping.



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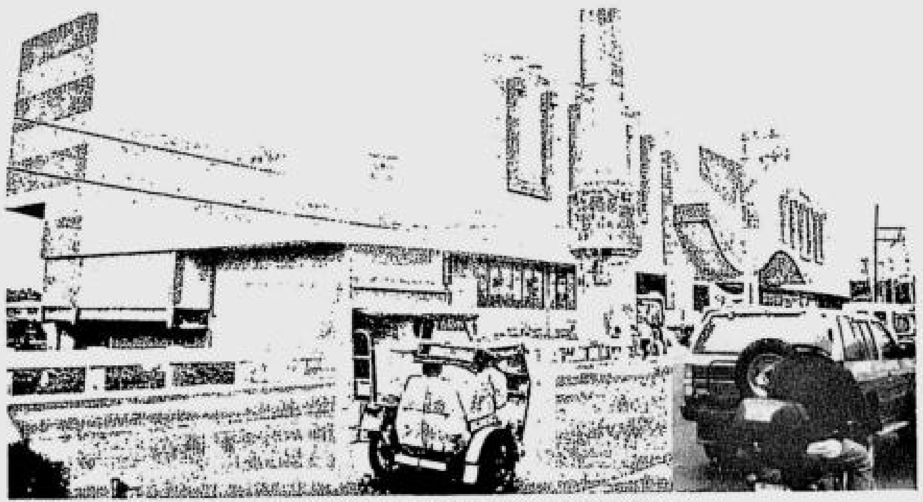


CUEVASVILLE Realty and Development Corp.'s second mall project

FRC Super Mall opens Sept. 17

WALKALATORS, Dolby Surround Sound cinemas, quality grocery products from Pure Gold, household tools and appliances from Do It Yourself (DIY), fine dining from various food shops, one-stop NBI and LTO processing booths, a transportation terminal and a slew of world-class retailers are the come-ons of FRC Super Mall Imus to the public when it finally opens for business on Friday.

FRC Imus, Cuevasville Realty and Development Corp.'s second mall project, is located on Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Highway.

It hopes to get a suitable percentage of the mall's major market made up of more than half a million highly urbanized population, 80 percent of which are employed. FRC Imus also hopes to get a considerable chunk of the so-called "visiting market" which traverses the Imus-Bacoor route.

Creating a niche…

From page C4

City, it now has over 500 affordable housing units located in Laguna and Cavite areas.

"We shifted our focus in 1996 in response to the country's need for urban housing projects that would be offered at affordable prices. We decided to set up more so-called 'in-city development,' that is, within Metro Manila so that our buyers could save on transportation expenses," explained Uy.

Since available land is scarce in Metro Manila, Uy said setting up "vertical developments" is the most obvious approach not only to maximize land use but also to reduce cost.

Tri-media approach

Uy revealed that part of Sunny Villas' success is the tri-media approach they used in marketing their project.

"I guess we're the first developer of affordable housing to employ TV, newspaper, and direct marketing to advertise our project. Soon we will go into radio," he revealed.

He said the most interested buyers of Sunny Villas include the overseas Filipino workers in the Middle East who kept on inquiring through their 24-hour hotline 812-7742.

SOME of the first homebuyers were able to move in only after a few months.

With each new project, Uy stressed that PPHC will strive to build on the experience and knowledge gained from Sunny Villas as well as their other previous projects.

"This way, PPHC will be able to keep on adding value to its projects to the benefit of our homebuyers," he concluded.

14th Philconstruct promises to be the biggest ever

"THIS will be the largest and most comprehensive Philconstruct ever!" predicts Jorge A. Consunji, 1st vice president who chairs the 14th International Construction, Building Materials and Equipment Exhibition or Philconstruct 2004 which will be held on Nov. 18-21 at the World Trade Center.

With less than three months to go, Philconstruct 2004 has achieved over 85 percent capacity of its 15,000 square meters of indoor and outdoor capacity, or over 350 booths booked by 241 companies representing products and services from 22 countries.

In its formal launch during the fellowship meeting of the Philippine Constructors Association at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, event manager Global-Link called on interested exhibitors to participate in Philconstruct 2004.

The four-day exhibit will feature the latest technological breakthroughs in structural and architectural components, landscaping products, interior finishing, appliances and fixtures for industrial, commercial and residential projects.

Home expo

Philconstruct 2004 will also feature Modern Home Expo 2004, a showcase of the latest and most advanced technology and products used for homes, offices and buildings.

Modern Home Expo 2004 will be highlighted by the interior design contest organized in cooperation with the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers. Different room showcases by interior design students will compete for honors in the competition which will utilize materials and modular designs of exhibitors at Philconstruct 2004. The show's sponsors include Boysen, Charter Chemicals (Davis), Cemex, La Farge, Union Cement and Asahi Glass.

TechnoForum

TechnoForum 2004 is the lecture-forum series which features topics on advanced technology and innovations affecting the housing, design, application and construction industries. Chaired by Levy Espiritu, TechnoForum 2004 is made up of the following:

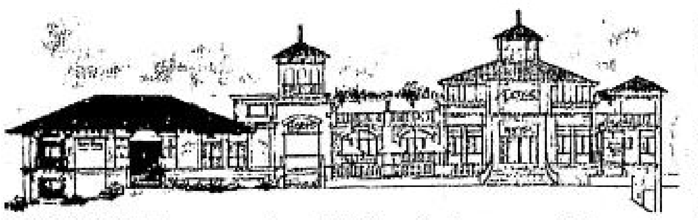
- The Management series will involve both government and the private sector in helping formulate the implementing rules and regulations of the new government procurement law.
- The Technology series will feature the newer and practical uses of concrete and steel to benefit contractors, architects and clients.
- The Equipment series will highlight the new products, materials and equipment in industrial works, infrastructure development, real estate development and building construction.
- The Information Technology series will stress the need to integrate the latest IT trends with the construction industry and the modern home concept.

Interested participants for TechnoForum 2004 and exhibitors for Philconstruct 2004 may contact Global-Link at (632) 750-8588 and 887-1304.

Primary commercial locators to open soon at Brittany Bay

REAL estate maverick Brittany Corp., known for high-end residential communities that are not only master-planned but distinguished by carefully chosen themes that provide harmonious coherence and add value to property, announces that the first business locators at its flagship project, Brittany Bay, are now preparing to open soon.

Foremost to open shop at Brittany Bay will be the Figaro Coffee Co., to serve a world of excellently brewed specialty coffee and everything that goes perfectly with it. Other establishments will open soon to offer the community the best of grilled Filipino dishes and fresh seafood, delightful Chinese cooking and more.



PERSPECTIVE shows a section of Brittany Bay's commercial area.

Entirely new 'lifescape'

"Brittany Bay is a thoughtfully planned community of neighborhoods that puts into practice the company's own definition of urban renewal, that is, creating an entirely new 'lifescape' or an ideal setting in which lifestyles are enhanced and provided a higher quality, to reinvigorate and renew residents' lives," says Brittany Corp. president Jing Serrano.

Brittany Bay also offers the advantage of a prime location along the South Luzon Expressway, proximate to the centers of the metropolis. The development is bound by Sucat Interchange to the south, Bicutan Interchange to the north, M. L. Quezon Boulevard to the east along Laguna de Bay to be linked to the future C6, and South Expressway to the west. Brittany Bay is only 15 minutes from Makati via South Expressway and 20 minutes from Ortigas Center via C5.

For its theme, Serrano notes that Brittany Bay draws inspiration from the city of San Francisco with its neo-Victorian architecture, in the context of urban renewal. Brittany Bay offers an eclectic selection of neighborhoods:

- La Posada, with beautiful, single-detached home and lot residences graced by picturesque windows and comfortable porches
- Victorianne Row, offering charming double and quadruple houses with unique architectural designs, reminiscent of "Postcard Row" on Alamo Square in San Francisco
- Viera, an impressive complex of mid-rise condos highlighting the values of privacy, style and community.

These residential neighborhoods will be complemented by a selected array of restaurants and commercial shops, amid lush foliage and landscaping for a comfortable and natural feel, says Serrano.

Urban renewal

"Pursuing the company's vision of urban renewal, everything a resident needs at Brittany Bay is only a short walk away, with commercial areas strategically designated," Serrano adds. "A resident can take coffee in his own home, or at his favorite coffee shop nearby in the company of neighbors. Or he can shop and run other errands while the kids play at the day care center close by. He can enjoy the outdoors with leisurely walks at sunrise or sunset, in the company of a fresh breeze from the lake.

"Brittany Bay is challenging old standards of city living. As its first commercial locators demonstrate, Brittany Bay is fast becoming a reality," says Serrano.

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Creating a niche in affordable housing

By Charles E. Buban

BUOYED by the success of its earlier projects—Smile Citi-Homes I and Smile Annex in Quezon City—with a combined total of 2,233 units sold, Phinma Property Holdings Corp. decided to develop another affordably priced medium high-rise residential development also in the city.

Located at the corner of Pearl Street and Commonwealth Avenue, the five-story Mediterranean-style condominium units of Sunny Villas offer flexible options in unit sizes as well as payment schemes.

"Homebuyers have the option to acquire two or three adjacent units either horizontally or vertically if they choose for a much bigger living space," explained PPHC marketing manager Grant Orbeta.

This is made possible by Sunny Villas' cluster-type layout that gives its developers flexibility in construction.

Priced between P535,000 and P757,000, buyers can choose from 30-, 60-, or 90-square-meter units, which can be availed through cash payment, Pag-Ibig loan or in-house financing.

Selling fast

With this price range and buying options, Sunny Villas has become among the fastest-selling pieces of property in the real estate market today.

In fact, company records show that four months after its groundbreaking last February, the new housing project has already sold 477 units, equivalent to 92 percent of its projected total sales of units open to the market.

Orbeta revealed that Villa 1 units are now taken and is ready for occupancy (in fact, a number of families have moved in already). Already in place are basic utilities which include an interior wash and dry area, mini clubhouse and basketball court.

Faster turnaround

PPHC attributed this much faster turnaround time to its building system that allows faster construction time.

PPHC said it was able to complete 290 units in just 115 days.

"There is no magic or short cut. We employed cast-in-place system of solid concrete walls that, compared to traditional method, is faster to set up and yet costs less, durable and longer lasting. This building method meet internationally accepted structural standards," assured PPHC president and CEO Willie Uy.

Uy also added that this is the same method they have used in their earlier developments.

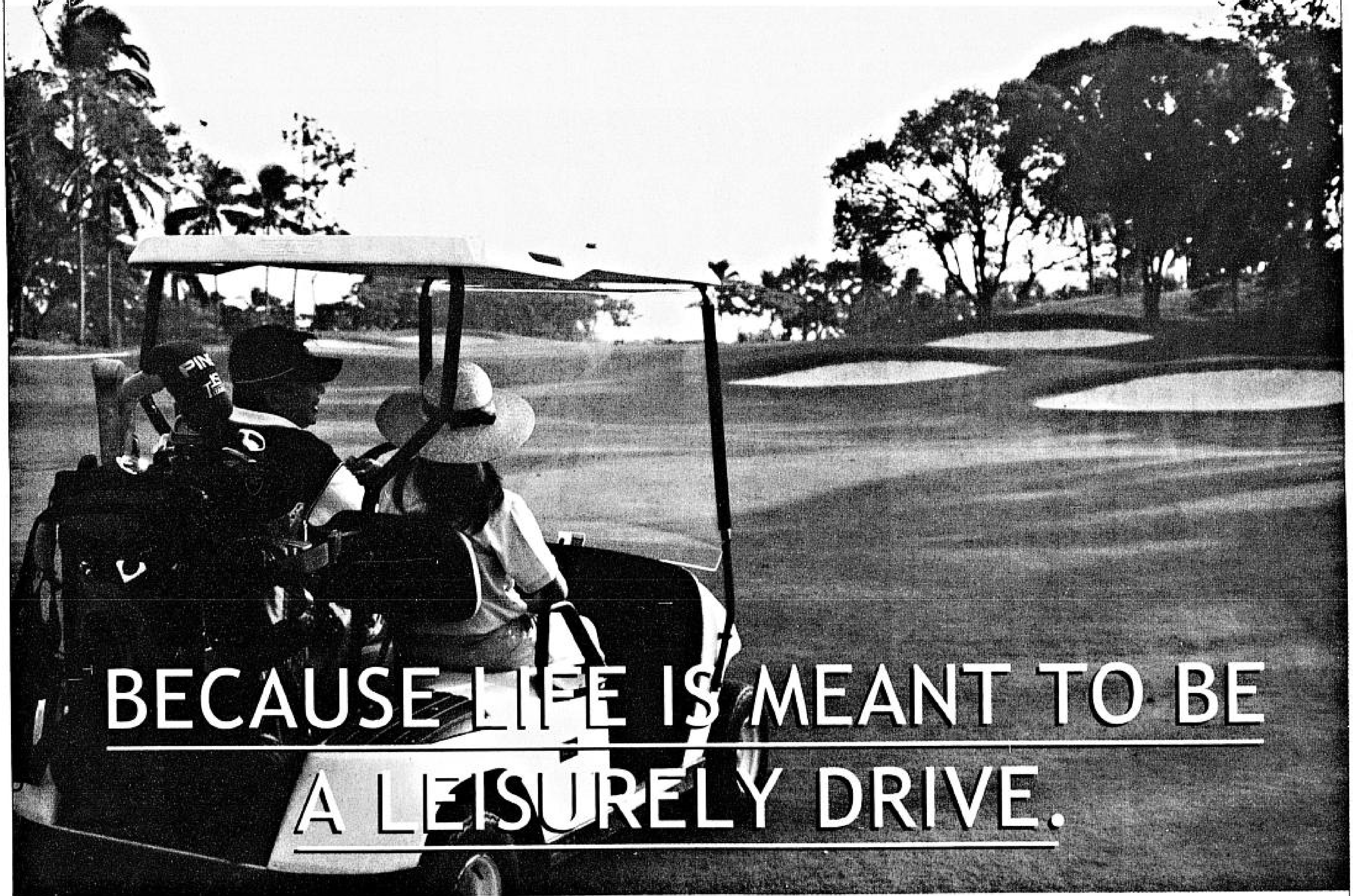
Carving niche

A subsidiary of Phinma Inc., one of the country's leading conglomerates, PPHC is tasked to create a niche in affordable housing particularly in and around Metro Manila.

At present, apart from the ones in Quezon

CREATING/ C2

SUNNY Villas is the latest affordably priced condo to rise in Quezon City.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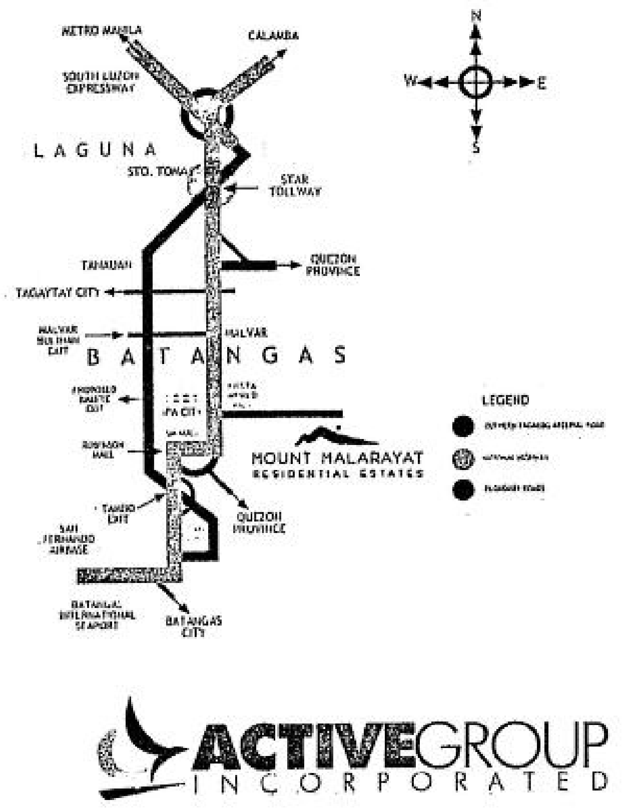

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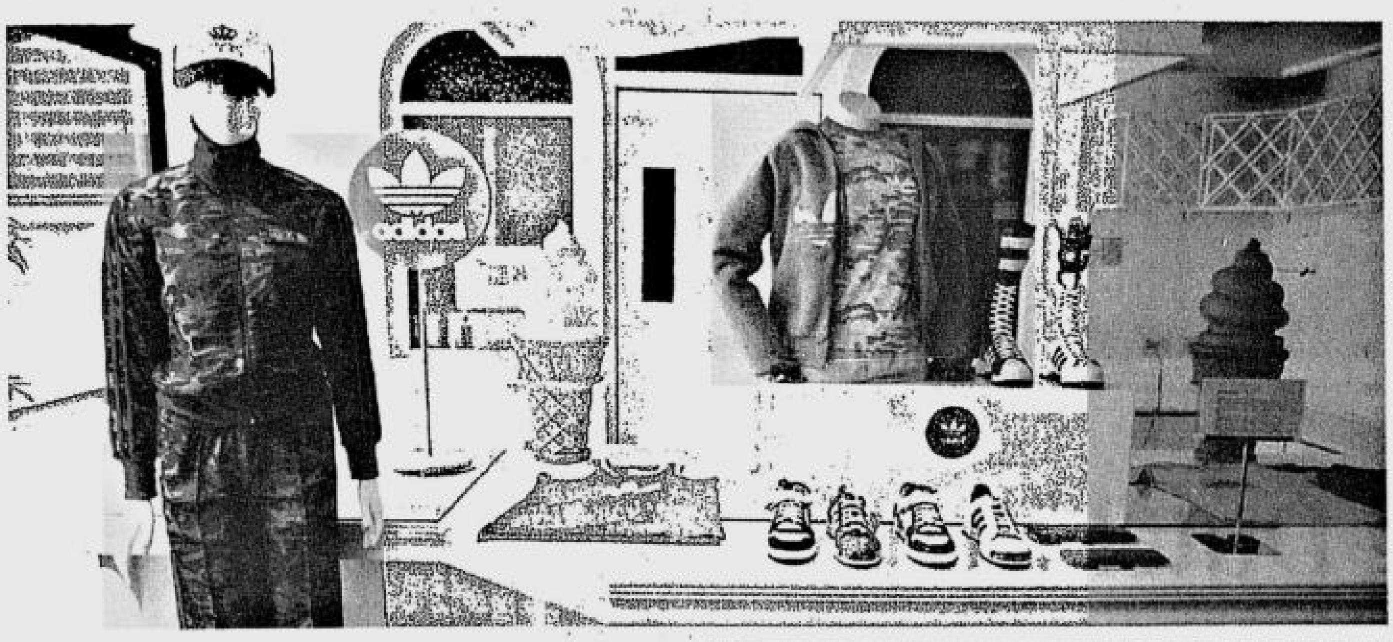
a leader /D3

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ● TUESDAY FITNESS ● WEDNESDAY 2BU ● THURSDAY FOOD ● FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY



THE RESPECT M.E. product line is all about positivity and empowerment. Scheduled for release in November, it is expected to be a hit with Missy Elliott fans worldwide.

Blast from the past

THIS season, Adidas introduces football-inspired apparel, an offshoot of the legendary 1974 Fifa World Cup that was hosted and won by Germany.

All apparel styles are direct reintroductions from the Adidas archive, redesigned using existing footage and records of the event.

There is, for instance, the shirt worn by Zaire in its final match against Brazil. The Gerd Muller track top which was made famous by World Cup legend Gerd Muller, who still holds the record for most goals scored at a World Cup event. And a reinterpretation of the Adidas Press Jacket, featuring the official logo of the tournament and the press number of the wearer.

These are complemented by a footwear and accessories collection closely linked to the early 1970s, but with a wide range of iconic football models.

A rich heritage

Fusion Girls, meanwhile, is all about taking Adidas' rich heritage in women's apparel, footwear and women's sports, and reinterpreting it for today's consumer.

From simple graphic tees to elegant evening wear, the link to sports is unmistakable, but seen from different angles.

Metro de Lux

In the 1980s, Adidas set up the first "non-athletic" sportswear product endorsement. This was inspired by a movement occurring on the streets, and one band who stood at the forefront of it: Run D.M.C.

The Metro de Lux collection is a nod to those years and some of the styles popularized by Adidas. From a new version of the Superstar Tracksuit that Run D.M.C. made famous, to the most iconic shoe Adidas ever created—the Superstar—this collection is a big homage to those times.

Running gear

The Running collection draws inspiration from Adidas' continuing legacy of providing performance-driven equipment for runners—from joggers and club runners to marathoners and Grand Prix titlists. The styles, fabrics and colors are taken di-

BLAST/D3

Take Charge Doc!

Dr. Nicky S. Montoya

Take Charge Doc! is your weekly question and answer guide on general health issues and illnesses. MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. And in a common thrust with the campaigns of the government, Take Charge Doc! parallels its features on the Calendar of Health Events of the Department of Health.

What causes liver cancer? Can it be prevented?

Liver cancer is the second leading cancer in Filipino males, seventh in females and fourth in both sexes. It is also the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the Philippines. The incidence is over two times more frequent in males than in females. In low incidence areas, it more often occurs at 60 years of age and above, while in high incidence areas like the Philippines, occurs at a younger age of 30 to 50 years.

Viral infection that cause Chronic Active Hepatitis, such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C viruses are responsible for most cases of primary liver cancer in the Philippines. Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) infection is the most prevalent. Infants and young children who get the infection and become carriers are at highest risk for liver malignancy. Other factors implicated are heavy alcohol consumption, prolonged intake of foodstuffs containing large amounts of aflatoxin and other chemical carcinogens. HBV can be transmitted through mother to newborn, infected blood transfusion and unprotected sex.

Vaccinating the infant population against HBV can reduce the prevalence of HBV carriers and thus reduce the incidence of liver cancer. Improved personal hygiene and public sanitation may also decrease the prevalence of HBV infection.

This week's answer to our question on liver cancer is provided by **Dr. Antonio De Hitta Villalon.** Dr. Villalon is MEDICard's accredited provider at Manila Doctors Hospital in Ermita, Manila. He specializes in Internal Medicine and has a subspecialty in Medical Oncology. Dr. Villalon is well-regarded for his exemplary leadership characteristics as exemplified by being the past presidents of various specialty organizations like the Philippine College of Physicians, Philippine Society of Medical Oncology and the Philippine Society of Oncologists. He is married to Ophthalmologist Pearl Tamesis-Villalon with whom he has a son, Juan Gabriel. Members may visit his clinic for consultations at Suite 306 of the medical arts building of Manila Doctors. Dr. Villalon holds clinic on weekdays from 1 to 4 in the afternoon.

BE HEARD AND BE READ. Write to DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA (c/o *TAKE CHARGE DOC!*) or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for inquiries on health matters.

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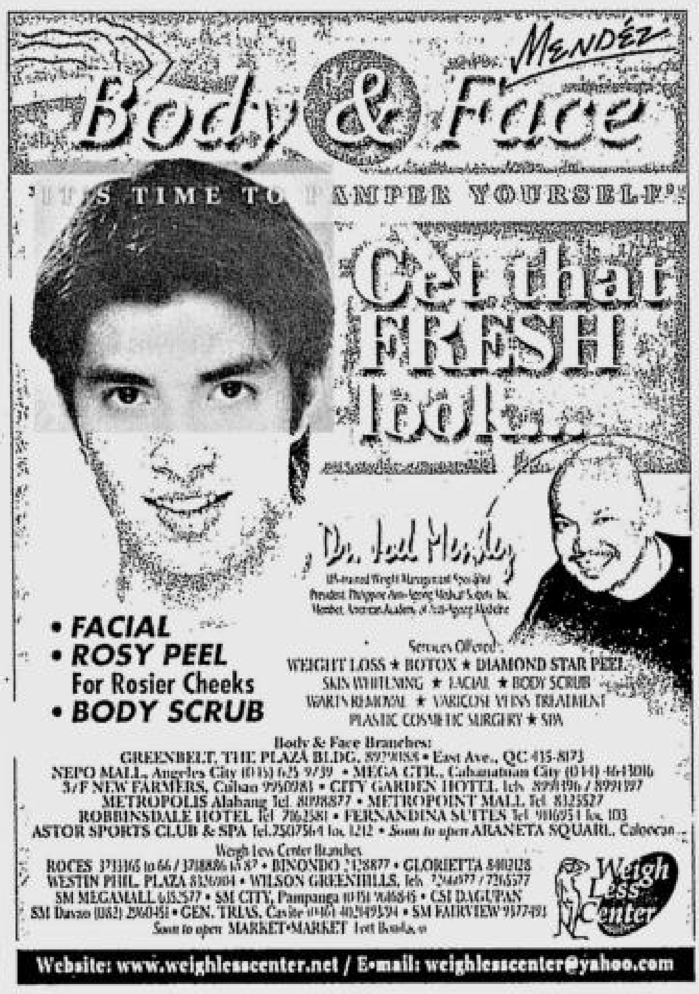

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SEVEN hostesses with the mostest: Evie Costa, Mellie Ablaza, Letty Syquia, Nini Licaros, with the honoree, birthday boy Alex Van Hagen, Chit Salud, Helen Ong and Nene S. Leonor

The shooting Dutchman

CHARITY-oriented ladies: Justa Tantoco, with Makati's first lady, Dr. Elenita Binay

EYECATCHING mother and daughter: Yoly and Pam Ayson

DR. Lumen Diego

LINDA Pastoral

SYLVIA Lacson

CIVIC-minded ladies: Betsy Tenchavez, with Nini Valdez and Nini Licaros

ANNE Binay with her nephew, Boogie B. Angeles

SUPER pals: Nona Ricafort with Letty Jorman and Chit Salud

CHONA Lopez

CARRIE Bautista

VIVACIOUS Roi Philips

ARTICULATE, pretty, pretty Debbie How

SHIPPING mogul Mila How

PRESIDENT of Jo-Lisa, Joanne de Asis

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by
Alex Van Hagen
on **Kodak Max**

HE'S more Filipino than some Filipinos I know—humble, and sometimes too quite, a true observer of people and a most sought-after photojournalist for weddings, launchings and the high life.

Alex Van Hagen has been a most lovable figure among Cosmo Manille's shakers, movers and achievers, *palanggas*.

He has so endeared himself to our town's famous "ladies who lunch and party" that they look forward to his special day, eager to make it a happy and fulfilled one for our celebrator.

It is no exaggeration to say Alex Van Hagen's no-nonsense reputation makes him the photographer of choice among women of substance and influence. His dedication, hard work and perseverance, *palanggas*, have allowed Alex to excel in his career—documenting beautiful, glamorous and highly distinguished personalities.

About 10 charming ladies joined forces to host Alex's late afternoon celebration at the mansion of the consul of Angola, fashionable **Helen Ong**, one of the hostesses.

Other socialites were charity-oriented **Nene Leonor, Nini Licaros, Chit Salud, Naty Pappas, Fortune Ledesma, Mellie Ablaza, Letty Syquia, Evie Costa** and **Tereret Liboro.**

The *merienda*—excellently prepared by **Millie Reyes** of The Plaza—was preceded by a Mass in one of the rooms of Helen Ong's elegant residence. The officiating priest, Fr. **Dommie de Guzman**, asked invitees to raise their hands toward Alex and pray for his continued good health and success. Alex, a devout Christian, thanked all for their blessings and prayers.

Invitees included Makati's first lady, **Elenita Binay**, with daughter **Anne Binay** and grandchild **Boogie**; **Menchu Concepcion**; brilliant shipping magnate **Mila How**, with super charmante daughter **Deborah Dorene**; **Yaying Dragon**; super pal **Justa Tantoco**; **Letty Jorman, Betsy Tenchavez, Carrie Bautista, Pitang Tiongson, Fe Ng, Linda Pastoral, Nini Valdez** and **Tessie Luz.** Close, close friend **Agnes Huibonhoa** showed up but dashed out soon after for another appointment, after wishing our man of the hour "all the best."

Others present were **Fe Rodriguez, Nena del Rosario,** the Saldaña sisters (all business achievers), **Celine S. Bautista, Marieliese S. Evaristo** and **Nona S. Ricafort.**

Also there were stunning eye-catchers, TV's body-beautiful **Cory Quirino** and her equally stunning sister, **Cecille**, visiting from New York; southern lady, *palangga* **Nena Casimiro; Nini Layug**; beautiful mother-daughter **Baby Cruz** and **Trisha C. Bautista; Monette Guevarra**; man for all seasons **Bobby Novenario; Yoly Ayson**; Asia's true-blue royal couturier, **Pitoy Moreno**; Cinderella's wonder woman, **Therese Santos; Mabel Abano, Roi Philips**, Jo-Lisa's prime asset, hardworking socialite **Joanne de Asis; Myrna Borromeo; Chona Lopez; Chit Dee; Lourdes Choa; Sylvia Lacson; Olga Martel,** who just breezed in from the Big Apple; **Pacita de Guzman, Bob Zozobrado** and lifestyle columnist and true pal, **Resty Vegara,** plus many others too nice to mention, dahlings.

To our dear friend and my third eye, Alex, may all your wishes be fulfilled today, tomorrow and years to come.

Cheers, *palangga*.

'Clowns & Puppets'

The renowned Galleria Duemila presented "Clowns and Puppets" by artist **Charlie Co.**

Guests on opening night saw another collection of sharp and thought-provoking paintings.

Officiating at the ribbon snipping were art collector **Victoria M. Vasquez,** political analyst and columnist **Amando Doronila,** and Galleria Duemila's art director **Silvana Diaz.**

The artist's *famille* and close pals—most coming all the way from Bacolod, the Land of Smiles, were there. **Anne Legaspi Go,** wife of the artist of the hour C.C., and his sister **Belen Li,** who added southern style and charm to the occasion.

Businessman **Nacho Arnais,** fashion guru **Patis Tesoro,** interior designer **Jonathan Matti, Rupert** and **Tina Jacinto, Tony** and **Cez Gutierrez, Leony Ong, Jose Marie Treñas** and **Gloria Tan Climaco** graced the occasion.

The artist is known for visual critiques of Philippine social realities and, in this new exhibition, he again addresses issues that continue to hound the country's system of governance.

Charlie was among the 13 Artists awarded by the Cultural Center of the Philippines in 1990. He has represented the country in foreign exhibitions, like the Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art at the Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia in 1996. He co-founded the Black Artists of Asia with **Norberto Roldan, Nunelucio Alvarado** and **Dennis Ascalon.**

"Clowns and Puppets" is representative of the artistic excellence of Filipino contemporary artists. In Charlie's case, Ilonggo style *di bala, palanggas*?

Pre-Christmas bazaar

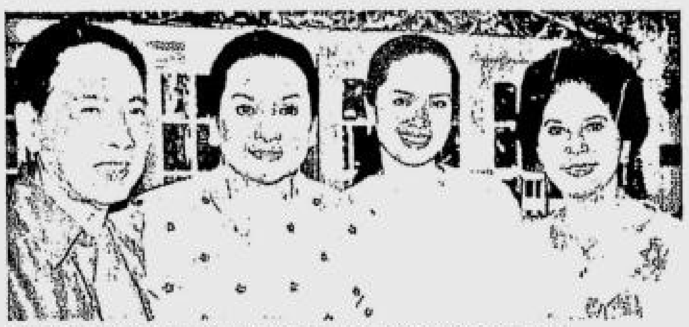
The tireless society gals of the Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (FCCP) will hold their annual pre-Christmas Bazaar, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sept. 25-26, at the World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard.

FCCP aims to create "an awareness of our country's rich cultural heritage and the development of talented young Filipino artists," said its president, glamorous lady of substance Mellie Ablaza, dahlings.

The bazaar, she said, was one of the group's major activities to raise funds for noteworthy projects like subsidies to talented young musicians and vocalists, outreach cultural programs in public schools, scholarships, travel grants and financial help to the National Museum Foundation for the training of art teachers and museum guides.

This year, the bazaar will have more than 120 concessionaires selling antiques, jewelry, art pieces, silver items and ethnic products, among others. You name it *palanggas*, they will have it.

HOTSHOT women behind the FCCP Bazaar: (seated) Cez Manalo; Karen Macasaet, director, bazaar committee; FCCP president Mellie Ablaza; Beth Cristobal; and chair Tess Castro. (standing) Sol Tan-Gatue, consul of Monaco Fortune Ledesma, Chloe Romulo-Periquet, Chit Gohu, Thelma Gana, Lulu Castañeda and Nene Leonor.



THE SHAKERS: Asia's royal couturier, Pitoy Moreno, with Jewelmer's radiant pearl, Baby Cruz and her daughter, Franck Provost achiever Trisha C. Bautista; and Menchu Concepcion

RED is their color: Southern lady Olga Severino Martel, with Nene S. Leonor, Margaret Lim-Kwok and Evie Costa

WOMEN of substance: Burger Machine queen Fe Rodriguez, with Agnes Huibonhoa, secret weapon of the Mega Center, the Mall of Cabanatuan City; Cinderella's Therese Santos; shipping industry shaker Naty Pappas; and consul of Angola, Helen Ong

LADIES of action: Fe Ng, with Sylvia Lacson, Fortune Ledesma, Chit Salud and Chit Dee

GLORIA Tan Climaco, Amando Doronila, Jose Marie Trenas, Charlie Co, Victoria Vazquez and Silvana Diaz

MARK Kingli and Leony Ong

Belen Li and Mike Kingli

CEZ Gutierrez and Tony Gutierrez

Taking charge

"Of all the things a leader should fear, complacency should head the list."—John C. Maxwell

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

EVOLUTION is a word that applies to the idea that the organism that is best able to control its environment and all other organisms in it is superior above all. Thus, the term "survival of the fittest."

Therefore, the organism that survives all other organisms and is superior in self-preservation is considered the most evolved.

So much for this mundane explanation. In today's definition, evolution takes on a new meaning and understanding. Take two human beings and place them in the arena of life. One would be more narrow-minded, aggressive and selfish. The other will be cooperative, generous and selfless.

Most would consider the kind one as more evolved. We now look upon evolution from a deeper dimension, a larger frame of reference.

If the human being is at the top of the food chain, then why is s/he so beset by stress and ill-health? Could it be that we lack the will to see our dreams through? Or maybe we allow the environment of abuse, ignorance and laziness to overtake us?

In his book, "The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader," author John C. Maxwell explains that leadership can only develop from the inside out. "If you can become the leader you ought to be on the inside, you will be able to become the leader you want to be on the outside."

Now that's a tall order.

The challenge

All too often we hear the usual complaints, "I can't seem to get my act together" or "I am not in control." They are overweight (or obese), burdened with health problems and emotional hurts.

Let's apply rule No. 1 in Maxwell's book.

Character: Be a piece of the rock.

In essence, do not take shortcuts. Do not make compromises. Exhaust all possibilities and never, never give up on yourself. Being firm in your convictions can and will take you further forward, not backward.

There is a popular belief that events or crisis do not make a person; they reveal him/her. This is where true character takes center stage.

The elements of character

- Character is defined as more than just talk. In short, don't just talk about it, do it. If you wish to lose 30 pounds in five months, don't just verbalize your hopes with friends—implement them. Others would simply say "walk the talk."

Character is more than just talk—it also means action

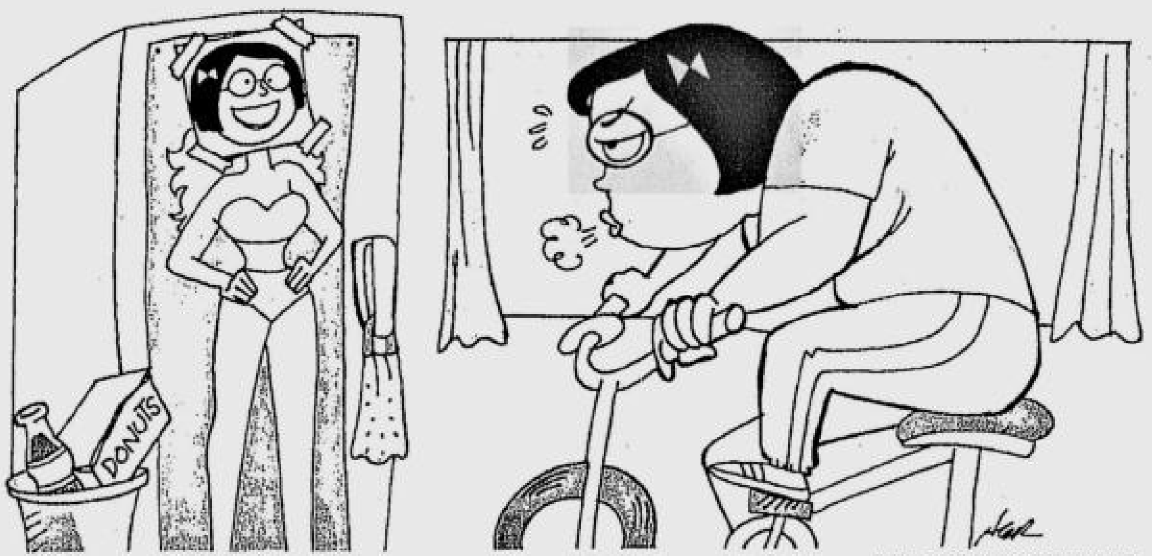


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

If beginning today you have sworn to yourself you will have a more positive attitude in life, then for goodness' sake, have a smile on your face as you get up from bed. Don't frown at each day! Your reflection in the mirror shows off your pearly whites!

- Talent is a gift, but character is a choice. Choosing to be healthy instead of unhealthy; to be happy, not sad; to be successful, not a failure; to be kind, not cruel; generous, not stingy; disciplined rather than undisciplined... The more you make choices, the more you are building character.
- Character brings lasting success. With people, flawed characters don't have a following. If you are going to be a paragon of good health—body, mind and spirit—then be an inspiration to yourself, that you might become an inspiration to others.
- Leaders can't rise above the limitations of their character. Sometimes, too much success can kill the man. If your character is flawed or weak, then a little success can undo you. Why do some people break down after achieving success and can't seem to cope with the stress that success can bring? The answer lies in character. The question one must answer is this: Do I keep my word to myself, to others and to God?

Love and light!

* * *

Life Changing Learning Events—John Maxwell, the leadership expert: "Building Teams," Sept. 15, Araneta Coliseum; "Building Leaders," Sept. 16, Philippine International Convention Center. Call 8302191 or 8132732 (Salt and Light Ventures).

Q&A on spirits, astral projection, etc.

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

A READER, who calls himself "scw," said my writings sparked his interest in higher consciousness, and there were a number of questions he had "been aching to ask" me.

Here are his questions and my answers:

- "During my father's hypnotic (trance), beings from the 5th dimension befriended him. The entities (did not want any) bright red cloth or object during the sessions. My question: Do bright red objects irritate spirits (or) ward them off? My father always told me to put something bright red when someone was trying to hypnotize me against my will, or when I felt (the presence of) unwanted spirits."

Each color has different vibrations. Red emits the strongest physical or material vibration, and violet the most calming or soothing spiritual vibrations. Red and violet are at opposite ends of the light spectrum and, therefore, may be considered as having opposite effects.

The reason spirit séances are held in semi-darkness or with very dim lights is not because the medium wants to hide something, but because spirits cannot manifest fully in very bright surroundings. Some say bright lights hurt them, but how can a spirit be hurt by a material thing? Maybe it is not pain they feel but difficulty of manifestation.

When I saw the mediumistic Brazilian painter, Luis Gasparetto, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, he requested that all bright white light bulbs and fluorescent lamps be changed to blue, or the spirits could not manifest in him. His demonstration could not start immediately, because bulbs were changed to some subdued color.

- "From your columns I learned that whenever I wake up but can't move, it's a case of astral projection. Before I realized this, I would often panic and get extremely exhausted (from) my efforts to move. Is there anything I can do to facilitate synchronization of soul and body?"

Don't panic. You will surely get back whenever you feel yourself getting out of your body. Fear creates a dissonance between your astral and physical bodies. If you regard going out of your body to be as normal and natural as breathing, then there will be no problem getting back. In fact, staying out is more difficult than getting back into your body. Just think of your body. You'll be back as quickly as you think.

- "I still don't understand how the St. Benedict Medal repels evil spirits. Does it have to do with the Latin incantations written all over it? Why does it have to be blessed? What's with the ritual of blessing that gives the medal power to ward off evil spirits?"

As far as I know about its history, it is the only medal dedicated and empowered by the Catholic Church for the protection of the wearer from demonic possession and also from snake bite poisoning. The medal is not effective against other negative elemental spirits, only against demonic possession.

When five high school students of a Catholic school were possessed by dwarves, the priests gave them St. Benedict medals to wear. The possession, however, continued.

What gives the medal power to ward off demonic possession? It is the dedication of that medal for that purpose. The Latin prayers or invocations found as initials merely serve as trigger mechanisms for the mind. The ritual activates the prayer, in the same way one can activate or magnetize a talisman or amulet for a certain purpose.

I have given St. Benedict medals to at least a dozen individuals being molested by evil spirits, with fantastic results.

- "Is your Inner Mind Development Seminar similar to Silva Mind Control Method? Can you give me your schedule of seminars and the cost?"

There is a similarity in objectives, namely to teach participants to make more effective use of both hemispheres of their brain. But the methodologies and exercises are different. My course does not use the repetitive formulaic instructions and affirmations of the Silva Method.

But there are some universal exercises, like the going down to alpha level, but then the Silva Method does not have a monopoly on this. Jose Silva himself got many of his concepts and teachings from Yoga, Edgar Cayce, hypnosis and the Rosicrucians. There's nothing original in it except the packaging.

Neither can I claim originality for my programs. I took from many sources and adapted them to Filipino mentality and attitudes. Those who have taken my seminars have found them effective and powerful. For schedules, fees and other details of my seminars, call 8107245 or 8926806.

It is not generally known, but insurance man Bonnie Ho and myself were the first to introduce the Silva Method here in 1987. I conducted the first public seminar on the Silva Method of Mind Control in this country. I taught it for about three years, until I quit and formed the Inner Mind Development Institute, teaching topics not covered by the Silva Method. A former student of mine continued that course for about 10 years.

E-mail reactions to this column to jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Listen to my radio program, 7-8 p.m. every Sunday over dzMM at 630 khz on the AM radio band

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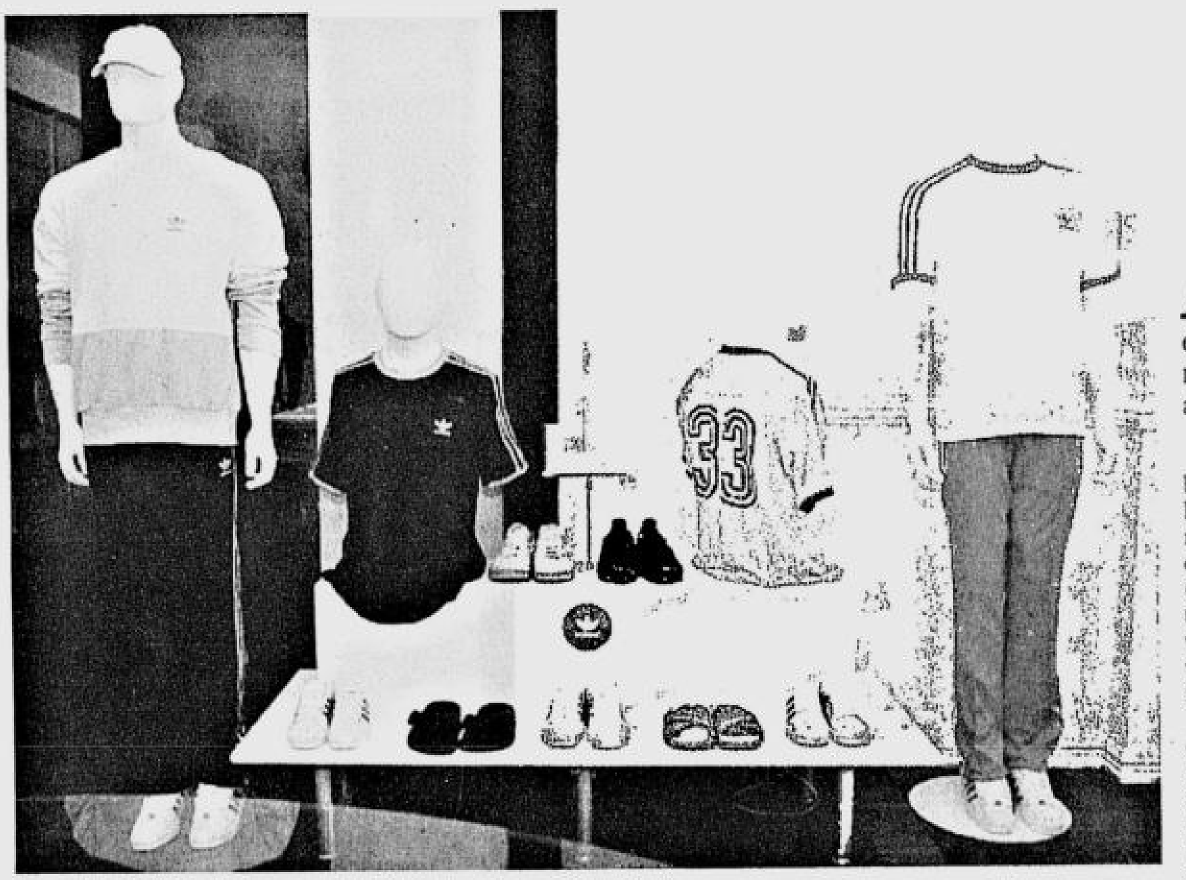


THE URBAN Collection includes a "tribute" to basketball legend Kareem Abdul Jabbar, who wore the number 33 during his playing years.

Blast from the past

From page D1

rectly from this world.

Archive

This collection presents some of Adidas' best pieces from the archives, reinterpreted for today's consumer. From the exact reproduction of the first-ever bag that Adi Dassler made in 1954—a rare 50-years commemorative collector's item—to the Trimm Trab track top and training shoe promoting the West German "Keep fit" movement in the '70s, to the Jeans, a vintage training shoe previously available in 1960, everything is about the glories of the past brought to the present.

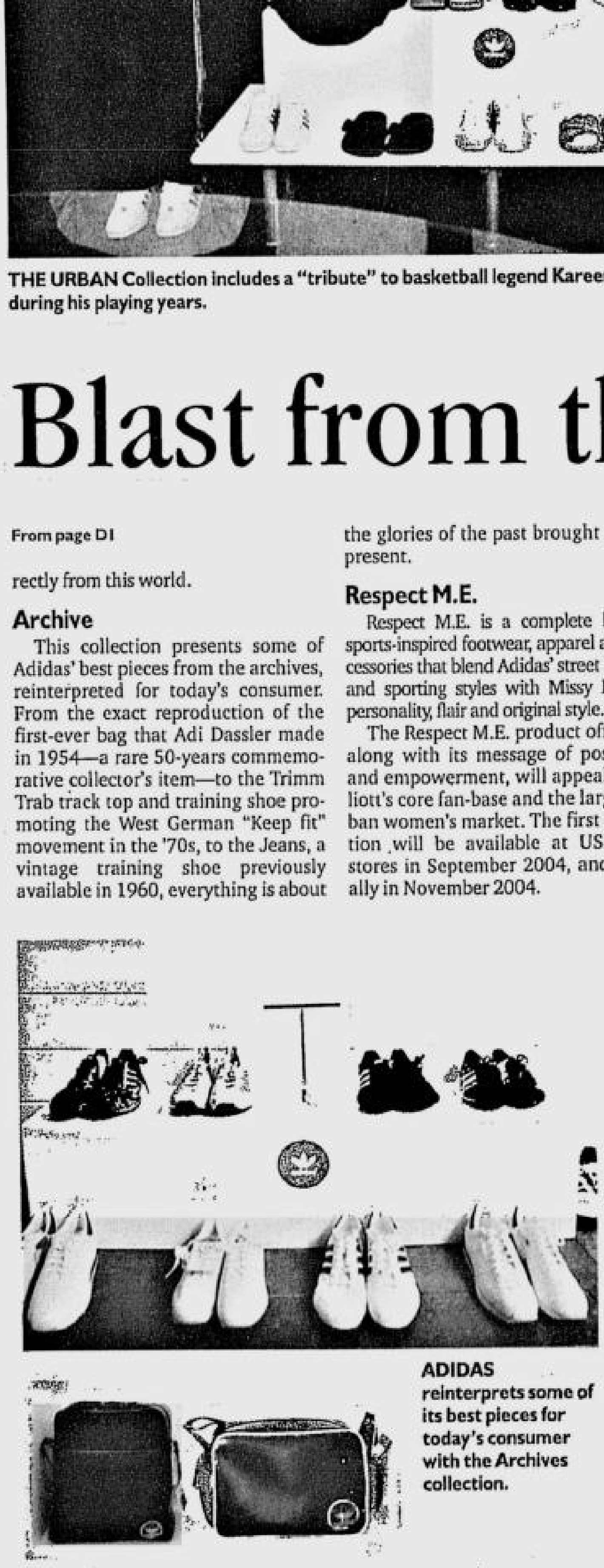
Respect M.E.

Respect M.E. is a complete line of sports-inspired footwear, apparel and accessories that blend Adidas' street history and sporting styles with Missy Elliott's personality, flair and original style.

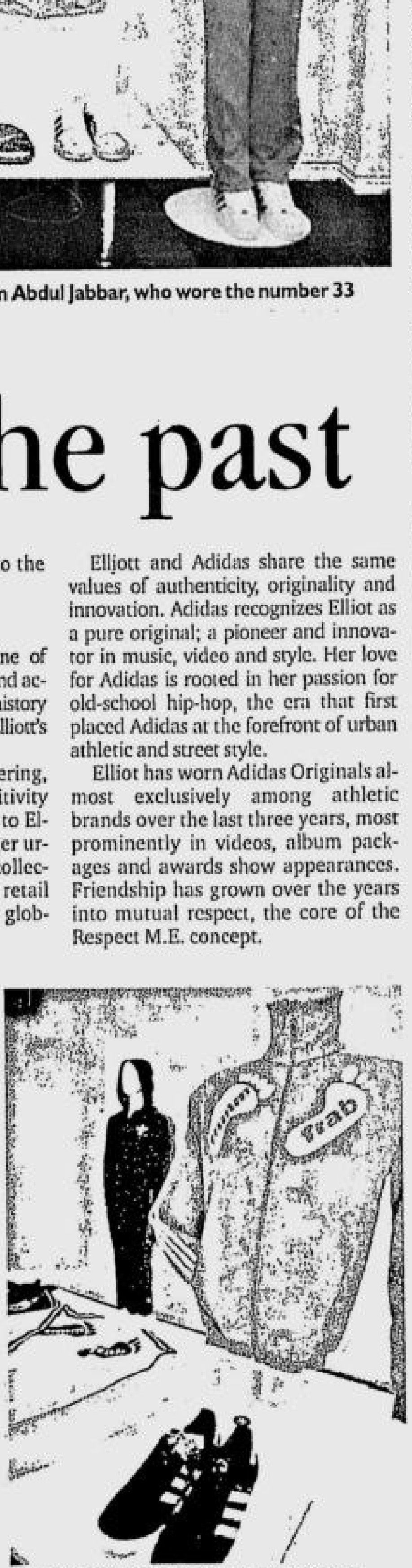
The Respect M.E. product offering, along with its message of positivity and empowerment, will appeal to Elliott's core fan-base and the larger urban women's market. The first collection will be available at US retail stores in September 2004, and globally in November 2004.

Elliott and Adidas share the same values of authenticity, originality and innovation. Adidas recognizes Elliot as a pure original; a pioneer and innovator in music, video and style. Her love for Adidas is rooted in her passion for old-school hip-hop, the era that first placed Adidas at the forefront of urban athletic and street style.

Elliot has worn Adidas Originals almost exclusively among athletic brands over the last three years, most prominently in videos, album packages and awards show appearances. Friendship has grown over the years into mutual respect, the core of the Respect M.E. concept.



ADIDAS reinterprets some of its best pieces for today's consumer with the Archives collection.



THE TRIMM Trab track top and training shoes hark back to the '70s "Keep Fit" campaign in Germany.

Walkathon marks Alzheimer's Day

THE ALZHEIMER'S Disease Association of the Philippines will mark the annual World Alzheimer's Day with the "Memory Walk 2004—No Time to Lose," Sept. 19, 5:30-10 a.m.

The fund-raising walkathon aims to increase awareness of the disease. Assembly is at the Baywalk fronting the Rajah Sulayman Plaza. Participants will walk toward the Quirino Grandstand for a short program and snacks.

Alzheimer's Day is marked worldwide in September.

Taking charge

"Of all the things a leader should fear, complacency should head the list."—John C. Maxwell

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

EVOLUTION is a word that applies to the idea that the organism that is best able to control its environment and all other organisms in it is superior above all. Thus, the term "survival of the fittest."

Therefore, the organism that survives all other organisms and is superior in self-preservation is considered the most evolved.

So much for this mundane explanation. In today's definition, evolution takes on a new meaning and understanding. Take two human beings and place them in the arena of life. One would be more narrow-minded, aggressive and selfish. The other will be cooperative, generous and selfless.

Most would consider the kind one as more evolved. We now look upon evolution from a deeper dimension, a larger frame of reference.

If the human being is at the top of the food chain, then why is s/he so beset by stress and ill-health? Could it be that we lack the will to see our dreams through? Or maybe we allow the environment of abuse, ignorance and laziness to overtake us?

In his book, "The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader," author John C. Maxwell explains that leadership can only develop from the inside out. "If you can become the leader you ought to be on the inside, you will be able to become the leader you want to be on the outside."

Now that's a tall order.

The challenge

All too often we hear the usual complaints, "I can't seem to get my act together" or "I am not in control." They are overweight (or obese), burdened with health problems and emotional hurts.

Let's apply rule No. 1 in Maxwell's book.

Character: Be a piece of the rock.

In essence, do not take shortcuts. Do not make compromises. Exhaust all possibilities and never, never give up on yourself. Being firm in your convictions can and will take you further forward, not backward.

There is a popular belief that events or crisis do not make a person; they reveal him/her. This is where true character takes center stage.

The elements of character

- Character is defined as more than just talk. In short, don't just talk about it, do it. If you wish to lose 30 pounds in five months, don't just verbalize your hopes with friends—implement them. Others would simply say "walk the talk."

If beginning today you have sworn to yourself you will have a more positive attitude in life, then for goodness' sake, have a smile on your face as you get up from bed. Don't frown at each day! Your reflection in the mirror shows off your pearly whites!

- Talent is a gift, but character is a choice. Choosing to be healthy instead of unhealthy; to be happy, not sad; to be successful, not a failure; to be kind, not cruel; generous, not stingy; disciplined rather than undisciplined... The more you make choices, the more you are building character.
- Character brings lasting success. With people, flawed characters don't have a following. If you are going to be a paragon of good health—body, mind and spirit—then be an inspiration to yourself, that you might become an inspiration to others.
- Leaders can't rise above the limitations of their character. Sometimes, too much success can kill the man. If your character is flawed or weak, then a little success can undo you. Why do some people break down after achieving success and can't seem to cope with the stress that success can bring? The answer lies in character. The question one must answer is this: Do I keep my word to myself, to others and to God?

Love and light!

* * *

Life Changing Learning Events—John Maxwell, the leadership expert: "Building Teams," Sept. 15, Araneta Coliseum; "Building Leaders," Sept. 16, Philippine International Convention Center. Call 8302191 or 8132732 (Salt and Light Ventures).

Character is more than just talk—it also means action

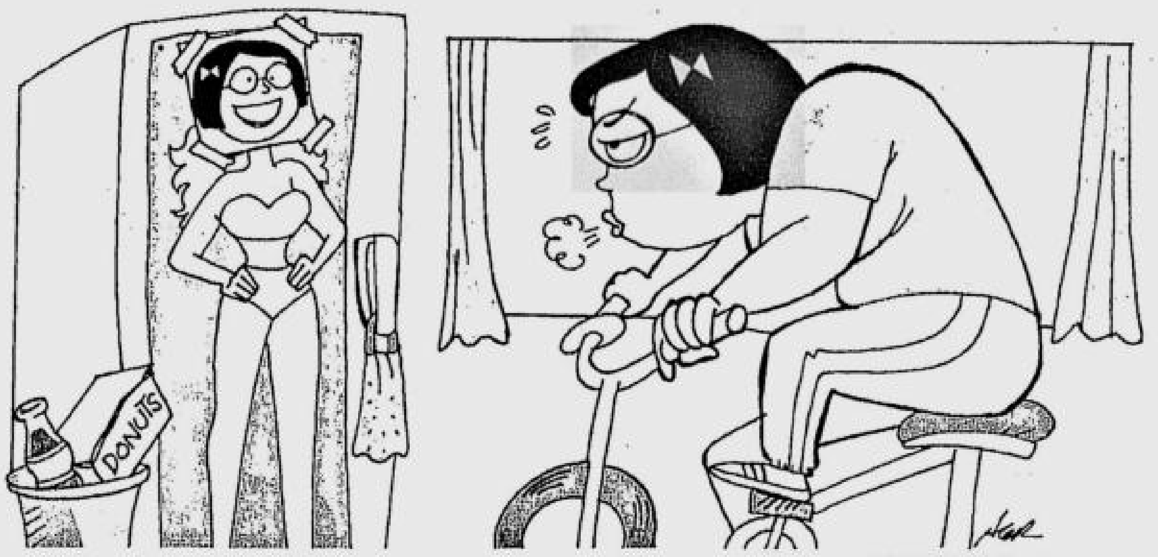
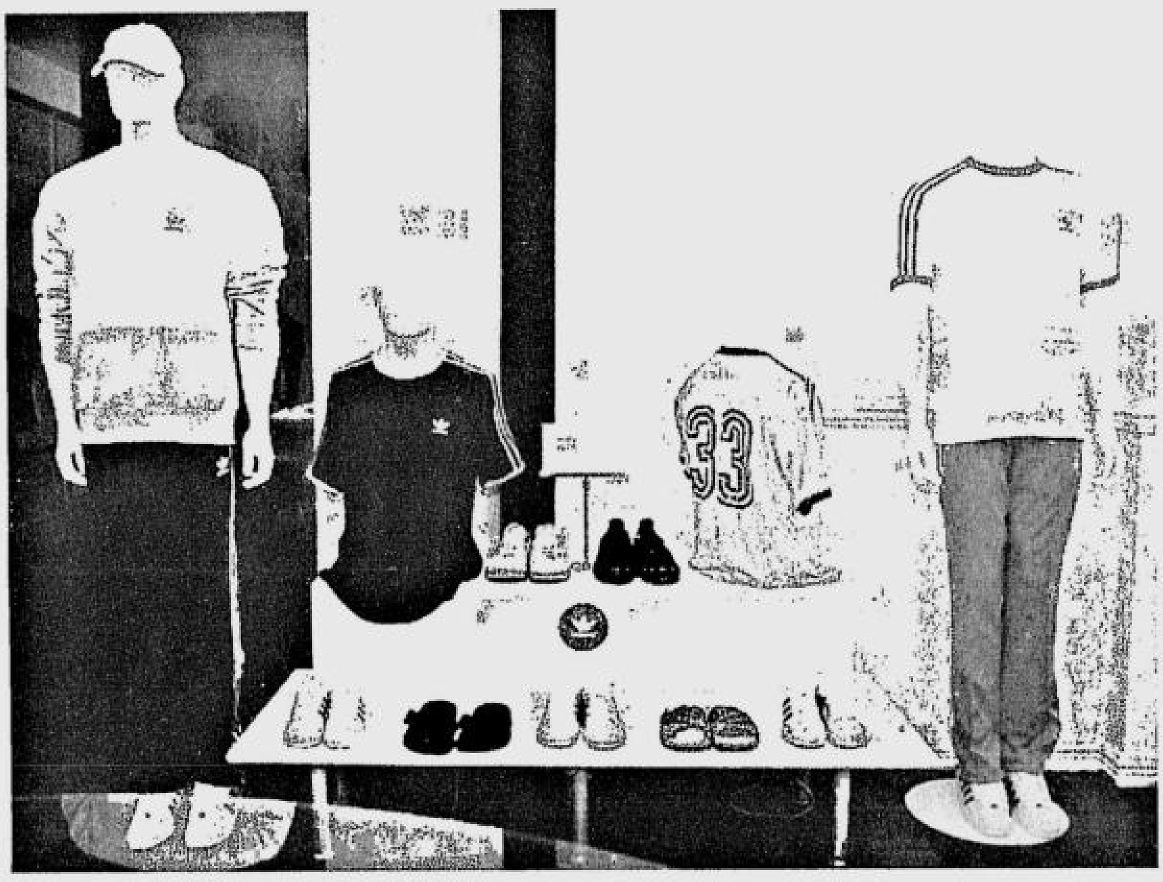


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ



THE URBAN Collection includes a "tribute" to basketball legend Kareem Abdul Jabbar, who wore the number 33 during his playing years.

Blast from the past

From page D1

rectly from this world.

Archive

This collection presents some of Adidas' best pieces from the archives, reinterpreted for today's consumer. From the exact reproduction of the first-ever bag that Adi Dassler made in 1954—a rare 50-years commemorative collector's item—to the Trimm Trab track top and training shoe promoting the West German "Keep fit" movement in the '70s, to the Jeans, a vintage training shoe previously available in 1960, everything is about the glories of the past brought to the present.

Respect M.E.

Respect M.E. is a complete line of sports-inspired footwear, apparel and accessories that blend Adidas' street history and sporting styles with Missy Elliott's personality, flair and original style.

The Respect M.E. product offering, along with its message of positivity and empowerment, will appeal to Elliott's core fan-base and the larger urban women's market. The first collection will be available at US retail stores in September 2004, and globally in November 2004.

Elliott and Adidas share the same values of authenticity, originality and innovation. Adidas recognizes Elliot as a pure original; a pioneer and innovator in music, video and style. Her love for Adidas is rooted in her passion for old-school hip-hop, the era that first placed Adidas at the forefront of urban athletic and street style.

Elliot has worn Adidas Originals almost exclusively among athletic brands over the last three years, most prominently in videos, album packages and awards show appearances. Friendship has grown over the years into mutual respect, the core of the Respect M.E. concept.

ADIDAS reinterprets some of its best pieces for today's consumer with the Archives collection.

THE TRIMM Trab track top and training shoes hark back to the '70s "Keep Fit" campaign in Germany.

Q&A on spirits, astral projection, etc.

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

A READER, who calls himself "scw," said my writings sparked his interest in higher consciousness, and there were a number of questions he had "been aching to ask" me.

Here are his questions and my answers:

- "During my father's hypnotic (trance), beings from the 5th dimension befriended him. The entities (did not want any) bright red cloth or object during the sessions. My question: Do bright red objects irritate spirits (or) ward them off? My father always told me to put something bright red when someone was trying to hypnotize me against my will, or when I felt (the presence of) unwanted spirits."

Each color has different vibrations. Red emits the strongest physical or material vibration, and violet the most calming or soothing spiritual vibrations. Red and violet are at opposite ends of the light spectrum and, therefore, may be considered as having opposite effects.

The reason spirit séances are held in semi-darkness or with very dim lights is not because the medium wants to hide something, but because spirits cannot manifest fully in very bright surroundings. Some say bright lights hurt them, but how can a spirit be hurt by a material thing? Maybe it is not pain they feel but difficulty of manifestation.

When I saw the mediumistic Brazilian painter, Luis Gasparetto, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, he requested that all bright white light bulbs and fluorescent lamps be changed to blue, or the spirits could not manifest in him. His demonstration could not start immediately, because bulbs were changed to some subdued color.

- "From your columns I learned that whenever I wake up but can't move, it's a case of astral projection. Before I realized this, I would often panic and get extremely exhausted (from) my efforts to move. Is there anything I can do to facilitate synchronization of soul and body?"

Don't panic. You will surely get back whenever you feel yourself getting out of your body. Fear creates a dissonance between your astral and physical bodies. If you regard going out of your body to be as normal and natural as breathing, then there will be no problem getting back. In fact, staying out is more difficult than getting back into your body. Just think of your body. You'll be back as quickly as you think.

- "I still don't understand how the St. Benedict Medal repels evil spirits. Does it have to do with the Latin incantations written all over it? Why does it have to be blessed? What's with the ritual of blessing that gives the medal power to ward off evil spirits?"

As far as I know about its history, it is the only medal dedicated and empowered by the Catholic Church for the protection of the wearer from demonic possession and also from snake bite poisoning. The medal is not effective against other negative elemental spirits, only against demonic possession.

When five high school students of a Catholic school were possessed by dwarves, the priests gave them St. Benedict medals to wear. The possession, however, continued.

What gives the medal power to ward off demonic possession? It is the dedication of that medal for that purpose. The Latin prayers or invocations found as initials merely serve as trigger mechanisms for the mind. The ritual activates the prayer, in the same way one can activate or magnetize a talisman or amulet for a certain purpose.

I have given St. Benedict medals to at least a dozen individuals being molested by evil spirits, with fantastic results.

- "Is your Inner Mind Development Seminar similar to Silva Mind Control Method? Can you give me your schedule of seminars and the cost?"

There is a similarity in objectives, namely to teach participants to make more effective use of both hemispheres of their brain. But the methodologies and exercises are different. My course does not use the repetitive formulaic instructions and affirmations of the Silva Method.

But there are some universal exercises, like the going down to alpha level, but then the Silva Method does not have a monopoly on this. Jose Silva himself got many of his concepts and teachings from Yoga, Edgar Cayce, hypnosis and the Rosicrucians. There's nothing original in it except the packaging.

Neither can I claim originality for my programs. I took from many sources and adapted them to Filipino mentality and attitudes. Those who have taken my seminars have found them effective and powerful. For schedules, fees and other details of my seminars, call 8107245 or 8926806.

It is not generally known, but insurance man Bonnie Ho and myself were the first to introduce the Silva Method here in 1987. I conducted the first public seminar on the Silva Method of Mind Control in this country. I taught it for about three years, until I quit and formed the Inner Mind Development Institute, teaching topics not covered by the Silva Method. A former student of mine continued that course for about 10 years.

E-mail reactions to this column to jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Listen to my radio program, 7-8 p.m. every Sunday over dzMM at 630 khz on the AM radio band

Walkathon marks Alzheimer's Day

THE ALZHEIMER'S Disease Association of the Philippines will mark the annual World Alzheimer's Day with the "Memory Walk 2004—No Time to Lose," Sept. 19, 5:30-10 a.m.

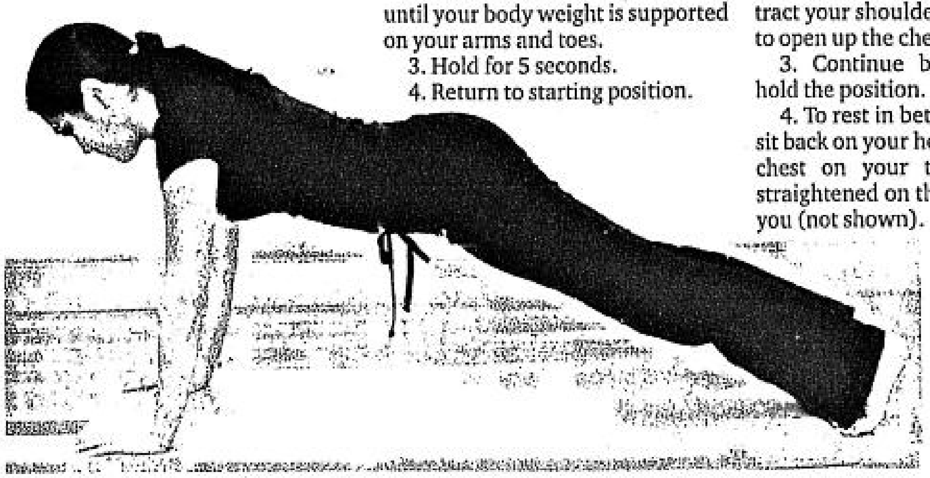
The fund-raising walkathon aims to increase awareness of the disease. Assembly is at the Baywalk fronting the Rajah Sulayman Plaza. Participants will walk toward the Quirino Grandstand for a short program and snacks.

Alzheimer's Day is marked worldwide in September.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

High plank

THIS yoga-inspired exercise strengthens the chest, shoulders, triceps, buttocks, hamstrings and trunk.



Equipment:
Exercise or yoga mat

Exercise technique:

1. Start on your hands and knees. Arms should be directly under your shoulders.
2. Extend back, one leg at a time, until your body weight is supported on your arms and toes.
3. Hold for 5 seconds.
4. Return to starting position.
5. Do the desired number of repetitions.

Performance tips:

1. Keep your abdominal muscles lightly held in.
2. Keep your neck and head in line with your spine. Lightly contract your shoulder blades together to open up the chest.
3. Continue breathing as you hold the position.
4. To rest in between repetitions, sit back on your heels with toes flat, chest on your thighs and arms straightened on the floor in front of you (not shown).

Repetitions:
Five to 10 times of 5 seconds each. As you get stronger, lengthen the time you hold the position to 10 seconds.

Two-in-one protection

PFIZER Consumer Healthcare introduced recently new Teeth and Gum Defense Listerine, which offers two-in-one protection.

The new variant has more sodium fluoride to strengthen teeth against cavities and protect gums against disease. It complements regular fluoride toothpaste by allowing fluoride to penetrate areas that cannot be reached by brushing alone.

Like the regular Listerine, the new variant also kills 99.9 percent of germs that cause bad breath, plaque and gingivitis. Other Listerine products are Tartar Control Listerine, and regular line products Gold, CoolMint and FreshBurst.

Low-carb beer now in market

LONESTAR Ultra is the first low-carbohydrate beer in the country.

While having the same alcohol content as regular beer, Lonestar Ultra contains 75-percent less carbohydrates than regular beer and 23-percent less carb than light beer.

With Lonestar Ultra in the market today, you may soon be able to say goodbye to the beer belly and indulge without the bulge.

Habits that can make you fat

Part I

MOST people know that eating too much and not exercising enough will make them gain weight. So they skip meals or repeatedly go on crash diets, not realizing that these can make them fatter. Other habits are so ingrained they are not aware of their connection to the extra pounds that have accumulated around their waist or hips.

Skipping breakfast

Not eating breakfast may seem like a brilliant and effortless way to reduce calories. The truth is this method leads to failure. You are so hungry by lunchtime that you lose control of your appetite and eat more than you realize.

Studies confirm that people who skip breakfast tend to eat more calories later in the day compared to people who eat breakfast.

Skipping breakfast can also slow metabolism. Dr. Wayne Callaway, obesity specialist at George Washington University, found that people who skipped breakfast had a 5-percent lower metabolism than those who didn't. Digesting and absorbing food raises the metabolic rate slightly.

If you do not feel hungry in the morning, that's probably because you overeat at night. Obesity researcher John Foreyt says lack of food in the morning makes you overly hungry at night, and you repeat the cycle the next day.

Skipping meals

The body finds a skipped meal stressful and produces more cortisol, the stress hormone that triggers an increase in appetite. You may be able to control your appetite early in the day because of various distractions. But by nighttime, your hunger pangs will be hard to ignore. People with nighttime cravings and binges are usually those who skip meals.

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

Depriving yourself of food gets a natural biological response—the desire to binge

Midnight snacking

Some people eat three meals a day plus snacks and still raid the refrigerator after dinner. This is usually because the habit of late-night snacking was developed in childhood or food is a way to cope with stress.

If you snack on low-calorie stuff like raw vegetables, you will not gain weight. But how many people eat celery sticks instead of cookies, chips, chocolates, late at night? As one cookie is about 50 calories, a lot of damage can happen in 30 minutes of midnight snacking.

Pigging out on weekends

A study found that people take in 115 more calories per day on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays compared to other days of the week. Researchers calculated that habitual weekend bingeing could mean a weight gain of 5 pounds a year.

An occasional binge won't do much harm if you eat low-calorie meals for the next couple of days and exercise regularly. But you can get cocky and pig out more often, thinking you can easily get rid of the excess calories.

Crash dieting

Depriving yourself of food gets a natural biological response—the desire to binge. The deprivation-binge cycle is both physiological and psychological. Your body will crave for missing nutrients while your mind craves for what's forbidden.

When you give in (experts say you will two out of three times), chances are you will overeat. Uncontrolled eating can lead to guilt feelings, then crash dieting again. The vicious cycle of dieting and bingeing can last for years, says Glenn Cardwell, author of "Diet Addiction."

Though current research suggests crash dieting is not as damaging as once believed, many people gain weight with each new cycle not from reduced metabolic rate but from binge eating. Psychologists Janet Polivy and Peter Herman of the University of Toronto believe crash dieting can lead not only to binge eating but other disorders as well.

Mindless eating

It's hard to keep track of how much you eat while doing something else, like watching television or talking on the phone. The kind of food you can easily eat when multitasking is usually food you can pick up with your fingers. Most finger foods are high in calories.

Mindless eating also happens while you are cooking and when you automatically finish your child's leftover. This can lead to eating amnesia, which means you cannot remember what and how much you actually ate.

Just because you can't remember those calories doesn't mean they aren't real and won't cause weight gain.

Fast eating

Weight-loss experts have advised people to eat more slowly if they want to eat less. A recent Japanese study of 1,700 young women confirms there is truth to this. Women who took their time eating reported feeling fuller sooner, making them eat less.

Other studies found that people will eat more quickly and finish more food if eating in a fast-paced environment with loud upbeat music and bright lights. In one study, lively background music made participants take five bites per minute and half the group asked for second servings.

People who ate to calming flute music averaged 3.2 bites per minute, took smaller bites and not one asked for a second helping. Most of them also left one-fourth of their food on their plates. The message: Take your time when eating.

* * *

The UP-PGH Department of Orthopedics Sports Clinic will hold its first Post-Graduate Course, "Keen Eye for the Sports Guy," Sept. 25, at the UP College of Medicine, Pedro Gil, Manila. Topics include: Pediatric and Geriatric Athletes, The Female Athlete, Extreme Sports, Athletic Screening, Dermatologic Sports Conditions, and Management of Sports Injuries. Call 5242203.

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